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WITH SUPPLEMENT AND SIXPENCE.
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THE COURT.

The Queen received the Right Hon. R. A. Cross at an audience at Osborne on Saturday last. Mr. Cross dined with her Majesty. On Sunday the Queen and Princess Beatrice attended Divine service at Whippingham church. The Rev. Canon Prothero officiated. The Queen received a telegram from Colonel M'Neil, her Majesty's Equerry in attendance on Princess Louise of Lorraine, stating that an accident had occurred to her Royal Highness while driving in a sleigh at Ottawa with the Governor-General of Canada, and the Hon. Mrs. Langhan, on their way to hold a Drawingroom. The sleigh was overturned, and the horse ran away. The occupants were all bruised, but the injuries were fortunately not of a serious nature. The Princess, whose ear was cut and head bruised, and who was much shaken, is now reported to be recovering very satisfactorily from the effects of the accident. The Rev. Canon and Mrs. Prothero, and Captain Simpson, of H.M.S. Hector, guardship at Cowes, dined with the Queen on Monday. The Earl of Yarmouth, Comptroller of the Household, arrived at Osborne on Tuesday, and had an audience of Majesty to deliver an Address from the House of Commons in reply to the Speech from the Throne. The Queen has driven out daily, and Princess Beatrice has taken frequent rides. Vice-Admiral Sir F. Beauchamp Seymour has dined with her Majesty.

Her Majesty has telegraphed to St. Petersburg her congratulations on the escape of the Imperial family from the attempt to assassinate them by the firing of a mine.

The Queen has appointed the Hon. Mrs. Charles Eliot to be Lady in Waiting to Princess Frederica of Hanover. Her Majesty has also appointed the Earl of Onslow to be one of her Lords in Waiting in the room of the late Earl of Roden. Lieutenant Bigge has succeeded Colonel the Hon. Charles Lindsay as Groom in Waiting.

THE QUEEN'S LEVEE.

By command of the Queen, the first Levee of the season was held on Tuesday at St. James's Palace by the Prince of Wales on behalf of her Majesty. Presentations to his Royal Highness at this Court are, by the Queen's pleasure, considered as equivalent to presentations to her Majesty. The Prince of Wales, attended by his Gentlemen in Waiting and escorted by a detachment of Life Guards, arrived at the Palace from Marlborough House at two o'clock, and was received by the great officers of state and the Royal Household. The Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Connaught, Prince Leopold, the Duke of Cambridge, the Prince of Leiningen, and the Duke of Teck were present at the Levee. The Gentlemen at Arms and the Yeoman of the Guard were on duty at the Palace. The Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh and the other members of the Royal family, entered the Throne-Room in the usual state. The principal members of the several Embassies and Legations were in attendance, and various presentations in the diplomatic circle took place. The general circle was very numerously attended, and about 260 presentations were made to the Prince of Wales.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

The Prince and Princess of Wales visited several of the art-galleries on Saturday last, one being Messrs. Marryat's establishment, where they witnessed the operation of enlargement and reduction of the British Museum statues. The Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Connaught visited their Royal Highnesses at Marlborough House. The Prince and Princess, accompanied by Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud, went to the Gaiety Theatre in the evening. On Sunday their Royal Highnesses and their daughters attended Divine service at the Chapel Royal, St. James's. The Rev. the Sub-Dean, the Rev. A. H. Sitwell, and the Bishop of Sodor and Man officiated. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught, Princess Henry of the Netherlands, and Prince Leopold visited the Prince and Princess and remained to luncheon. On Monday the Prince and Princess dined with His Excellency the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador and Countess Karolyi at their residence in Belgrave-square. The Prince held a Levee on Tuesday, as above recorded; in the evening his Royal Highness and the Princess went to Her Majesty's Theatre.

The Prince has communicated to the junior member for Maidstone, Sir Sydney H. Waterlow, Bart., his sincere condolence upon the death of his wife, Lady Waterlow. His Royal Highness has consented to preside at a festival dinner in aid of the funds of the Westminster Hospital, to be held on March 13, at Willis's Rooms.

THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA.

The Empress of Austria joined the Meath hounds at Hatchett yesterday week, and on Saturday her Majesty hunted with the "Killing Kildares," which met at Castletown Gate, close to Celbridge, the meet being one of the most extensive ever seen at the same tryst. The Empress attended mass on Sunday at the Roman Catholic College, Maynooth. Her Majesty has hunted with some scratch packs during the week. On Wednesday she met the Ward hounds at the Black Bull. The Empress has also taken various cross-country rides from Summerhill.

The Duke of Edinburgh made a tour of inspection of various stations of the Naval Reserves in Kent; those visited including Sheerness, Hastings, and Rye. His Royal Highness likewise inspected the coastguard stations between Rye and Dungeness, and drove thence to Lydd and called at the residence of Mr. E. D. Young, divisional officer, the companion of Livingstone, and also visited Lydd church and examined the interesting tombstones in the churchyard. No Royal personage has visited Lydd since an occasion when George I. landed on the coast, owing to stress of weather, on his returning from Hanover. The Duke drove from Lydd to Appledore, and returned, via Ashford, to Eastwell Park. His Royal Highness, with his children, has arrived at Clarence House, St. James's. The Duke has accepted the office of president to the Charing-cross Hospital, in succession to Lord Overstone, who has resigned. His Royal Highness has presented to the Royal Aquarium Society a 25 lb. jack, which was captured at Eastwell by himself.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught, accompanied by Princess Henry of the Netherlands, visited Windsor last week, and after inspecting the castle, the Albert Memorial Chapel and St. George's Chapel, and other objects of interest, returned to Bagshot. The Duke and Duchess and Prince Henry of the Netherlands dined with His Excellency Count Munster at the German Embassy, Carlton House-terrace, on Saturday. Prince Leopold was present. Princess Henry of the Netherlands left London for the Hague on Sunday evening, on the termination of her visit to the Duke and Duchess. Their Royal Highnesses have visited Madame Tussaud's Exhibition and have been to the Haymarket Theatre.

Prince Leopold has consented to act as chairman of the Council of the Charity Organisation Society for the ensuing year.

The Duke of Cambridge went to Woolwich on Tuesday for the purpose of presenting commissions and prizes to the gentlemen cadets at the Royal Military Academy.

THE CHURCH.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Balwin, Charles, Rector of Topcroft, to Vicar of Berwick.
Boyle, Richard Alexander; Perpetual Curate of Holy Trinity, Wallington.
Britton, E. C.; Incumbent of Townstal-cum-St. Saviour, Dartmouth.
Burnett, Richard Parry; Chaplain, Madras.
Cawley, Thomas; Rector of Ashford.
Cotter, William Lawrence; Rector of West Coker.
Cox, Frederick; Vicar of St. Philip's, Dalston.
Dupuis, Edward John Gore; Rector of Alphington.
Eustace, G., Head Master of Nuneaton School; Vicar of Bulkington.
Faber, J. H.; Rector of Sproxton, near Doncaster.
Francis, D. H.; Incumbent of St. Gabriel's, Cannington, E.
Gamble, Charles; Vicar of Newton-upon-Trent.
Geddes, John Gamble; Rector of Tatsfield.
Griffith, George Octavius Fletcher; Vicar of Helpethorpe.
Hamilton, Arthur Henry Cole; Rector of Castle Ashby.
Hayson, Nathan; Vicar of Oxenhope.
Heather, W. M. J.; Curate of St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent.
Hempill, Richard, Chaplain, Versailles.
Holden, O. M.; Rural Dean of Penkridge.
Hughes, D. H.; Perpetual Curate of St. Lleian Gorslas, Carmarthenshire.
Knapp, Henry John; Perpetual Curate of St. John's, Ipswich.
Lamb, Charles E.; Incumbent of St. George's, Leeds.
Macdonald, Frederick William; Vicar of Berwick St. James, Wilts.
Maclean, J. H.; Vicar of Bramshaw; Vicar of Winterbourne Stoke.
Margetts, William John; Vicar of St. Edmund's, Leeds.
Merrihew, William; Vicar of Whitworth, Spenywoor.
Moncrieff, Archibald; Rural Dean of Cheshire.
Monnington, Thomas Pateshall; Rector of Skelton, Cumberland.
Moore, Henry Dawson; Vicar of Hinbury.
Moule, Horatio; Rector of Roud and Wolverton.
O'Connor, Harry King; Chaplain, Bengal.
Parke, Samuel; Vicar of Stannington, Sheffield.
Purey-Cust, Arthur Perceval; Dean of York.
Reece, Abraham Daniel; Vicar of West Hatch.
Rogers, William Henry; Rector of Heaton Norris (St. Thomas's).
Rowe, J. G.; Vicar of Bewick; Rector of Topcroft.
Sandford, Edward Armitage; Rector of Denford-cum-Ringstead.
Stanhope, Henry Augustus; Rector of Spofforth.
Stuart, Edward Alexander; Vicar of St. James's, Holloway.
Tomlinson, Arthur Roger; Rector of St. Michael's, Penkivel.
Tomson, Edward John; Rector of Great Saxham.
Touzel, Charles John Clif; Rector of Heswall, Cheshire.
Underwood, William James; Vicar of Bracewell.
Walsh, Robert James; Vicar of Wimborne-cum-Thundersley.
Waller, Robert Paine; Vicar of Nazeing.
Williams, William; Rector of Llanfairtlaharn.
Wilson, C. L., Curate of Sandgate; Vicar of Old Radford, near Nottingham.
Winslow, James Stephen; Vicar of Great Barstead.—*Guardian*.

The Venerable Arthur P. Purey-Cust, Archdeacon of Buckingham, has been appointed Dean of York.

The parish church of Portishead, Somerset, which is a good specimen of Early Perpendicular architecture, was reopened last week by the Bishop of Bath and Wells after complete restoration.

The congregation of St. Thomas's Church, Upper Clapton, have presented an address, with a purse containing £154 9s., to the Rev. H. Uring Smith. In addition to this, the members of the Scripture-class gave him a library clock, the women attending the mothers' meeting presented an inkstand, and the National School children made several little offerings, to show their affectionate regard for Mr. Smith, who for upwards of five years had laboured most assiduously in the parish which he is now leaving for a new sphere of duty at St. John's, Richmond.

St. Mary's, Bentworth, a building in the Transition style, which was repaired in 1849-50, was, after a further restoration, reopened on Monday week by the Bishop of Winchester.

A stained-glass window, executed by Messrs. Clayton and Bell, has lately been placed in Hereford Cathedral by some of the friends and former pupils of the Rev. Samuel Clark, late Rector of Eaton Bishop, Herefordshire, and formerly Principal of the Training College, Battersea, of whose high reputation Mr. Clark may properly be regarded as the founder. An inscription on a brass plate below records that the window is intended as a memorial of the great services rendered by Mr. Clark to the church, especially in the work of religious education.—The east window and two south windows in the chancel of St. Mary's, Tattingstone, Suffolk, have lately been filled with stained glass, by Messrs. Clayton and Bell, in memory of the late Rev. C. H. Elliott, for thirty-eight years Rector of the parish, his wife, and their eldest son, Charles Pearson Elliott, of the Hon. East India Company's Service.—A stained-glass window, by Mr. Evans, of Fleet-street, has lately been placed in Pinner church. The following inscription appears underneath:—"Erected by the congregation of All Saints', Woodbridges, to commemorate the restoration of this, their parish church, A.D. 1880."

THE UNIVERSITIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

OXFORD.

The examiners for the Arnold prize have reported that no composition which has been sent up appears to them to deserve the prize. The subject for next year will be "The Condition of Women in Greece and Rome."

At Brasenose J. A. Lomax, from Manchester Grammar School, and C. V. Gee, from Hereford Cathedral School, have been elected to scholarships open only to members of those schools.

The Boden Sanskrit Scholarship has been awarded to J. Postgate, exhibitioner of Queen's; proxime accessit, C. W. Payne, junior student of Christ Church.

At Oriel, Ralph St. John Ainslie, Sherborne, and William Francis Sorresbie, Sutton Valence, have been elected to open classical scholarships; and Henry Robert Stokoe, King's College, has been elected to an Adam de Brome Exhibition. These scholarships and exhibitions are of the annual value each of £80, for five years, during residence.

The following elections to Scholarships, &c., have taken place:—At University: To Classical Scholarships—J. de K. Hankin, Highgate School; Tregarthen, Sherborne School; H. Havell, Reading School. To a Historical Scholarship—H. Reece, Balliol. To a Lodge Exhibition—G. E. Wainwright, Bradford School. At New College: To Classical Scholarships—W. Hobhouse, Eton; and H. D. Leigh, Oundle School. To a Classical Exhibition—W. S. Swayne, St. Paul's College, Stony Stratford.

CAMBRIDGE.

The Ven. T. T. Perowne, B.D., of Corpus Christi College, has been appointed Hulsean Lecturer for the current year.

At Trinity the prize for the best English essay, open to all undergraduates of the college, has been adjudged to A. N. Disney and E. D. Rendall, who are declared equal in merit.

At Christ's College the Ridout prize, given annually to encourage the study of the Greek Testament and of the doctrines and formularies of the Church of England, has been awarded to Joseph Armitage Robinson, scholar of the college.

The son of his Highness the Maharajah Dulceep Singh is now a student at Eton College, having entered Manor House (Mr. A. C. James) at the beginning of the Lent school time.

The Rev. C. E. Cooper, of King Edward's School, Birmingham, has been appointed Head Master of St. John's College, Hurstpierpoint, in succession to the Rev. W. Awdry, promoted to a canonry in Chichester Cathedral.

The Rev. Charles Ewart Butler, M.A., of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, Head Master of the Thanet Collegiate School, Margate, has been elected by the Dean and Chapter of

Llandaff to the Mastership of their Cathedral School, which is to be opened next Easter.

Mr. R. O. Williams, B.A., Exhibitioner of University College, Oxford, has been appointed a master in Oakham School.

THE DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

The general condition of the country exhibits symptoms of decided improvement, though there are some very sad exceptions, and severe distress is felt in many places. Some of the worst districts have been inspected by Colonel Deane and Major Gaskell, who have furnished independent reports to the Duchess of Marlborough's committee, giving very satisfactory accounts of the working of the local relief committees. No fears are now felt that any persons will die of starvation. The indefatigable exertions of the Duchess of Marlborough and her committee have proved hitherto successful in grappling with every difficulty and bringing timely succour to the poor. Few ladies would like to undertake a share of the hard work which they go through from day to day, involving, as it does, many successive hours of drudgery. Her Grace especially spares no time or labour in the cause, her hands being full from early morning until late in the evening, writing, planning, arranging, superintending, and keeping the whole machinery of relief in constant and efficient action. Lord Randolph Churchill is also untiring in his efforts, and renders most valuable aid. All the ladies of the committee and the honorary secretaries are animated by the same zeal, and volunteers lend willing help. The organisation is perfect, and the committee, having access to the best sources of information, are kept thoroughly well informed as to the actual condition of every district, and are able to act as occasion requires. The utmost care is taken to keep a check upon the expenditure of the local committees, and the funds have been distributed with judicious liberality. One of the most useful modes of relief is by grants of clothes, and as these are made in Dublin under the direction of the committee the fund which her Grace dispenses is made to serve a twofold purpose by relieving at once the distress of the poor sempstresses of the city and the poor peasants in the country. The whole conception of the benevolent scheme and the arrangements for working it out are due to the thoughtful zeal and energy of her Grace. The recent purchase of a large quantity of seed potatoes has largely reduced the balance in the bank to the credit of the fund; but it is hoped that, by careful management and continued liberality on the part of the public, there will be sufficient resources to enable the committee to relieve the distress. As the Mansion House Committee is also receiving large funds, there is reason to hope that famine will be averted. The fund raised by the *New York Herald* will be intrusted to a committee named by Mr. Bennett, the proprietor of that journal. An important change in the poor-law system has been effected this week by the circular of the Local Government Board informing the guardians that the quarter-acre clause does not exclude the families of farmers from receiving outdoor relief, but only applies to the actual occupant. The guardians, however, do not seem to feel inclined to use the power which has been given to them, though before the issue of the circular it was complained of as one of the monster grievances of the country that outdoor relief could not be given in Ireland as it is in England. A similar disinclination has been shown with respect to the special presentation sessions for relief works. There is a general demand for public works; but a very strong and natural unwillingness to pay for them. The opinion most urgently put forward is that the Government should bear the cost.

Our Special Artist, who has lately visited the distressed parts of the country, furnishes some characteristic sketches of the general appearance of the rustic people about Galway, including some disconsolate groups outside the door of the offices where the local relief committee is deliberating upon the grants it can afford to bestow on many poor applicants for public bounty. A scene in the Fishmarket at Galway, which he has also sketched, is rather lively and busy, with a good deal of female eloquence, if we could hear it, seemingly poured out in mutual obtrusions by the sturdy dames of that Celtic Billingsgate. These are not, like too many of their countrywomen of the agricultural class, just now in a condition of extreme poverty and destitution. The stranger travelling even through Connemara, where the state of most of the population in these days is very sad, may have his melancholy mood relieved in some degree by such queer incidents as that which our Artist met with on the road, in the shape of an "obstructionist" stopping the car that conveyed him across the country. He would have been glad to have seen pigs and other signs of comfort and prosperity far more abundant than they were.

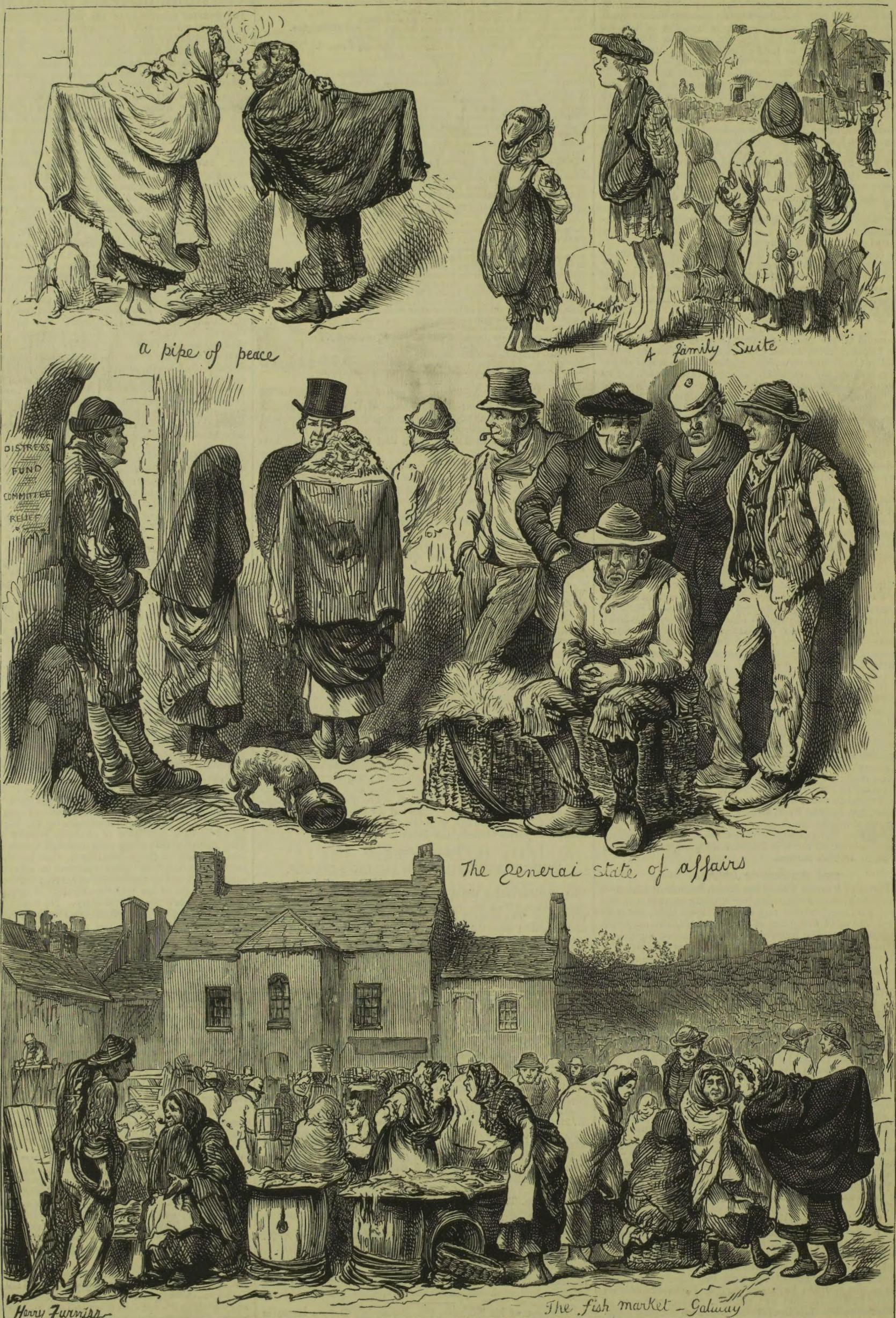
The New South Wales Government has bought for the Sydney Museum five of the French paintings sent to the recent Exhibition. The artists are MM. Dubufe, Landelle, Lesrel, and Defaux.

According to reports in Teheran, the Persian Government proposes the appointment of a European Commission for the definition of the North-Eastern and Attrek frontiers, and intends this spring to occupy Afghan, Scistan, and Herat.

The Premier has declined, owing to the pressure of public business, to receive a deputation of ladies, who desired to present to him a memorial in favour of the extension of the franchise to females; but he assures them that any communication they may make in writing shall receive his attention.

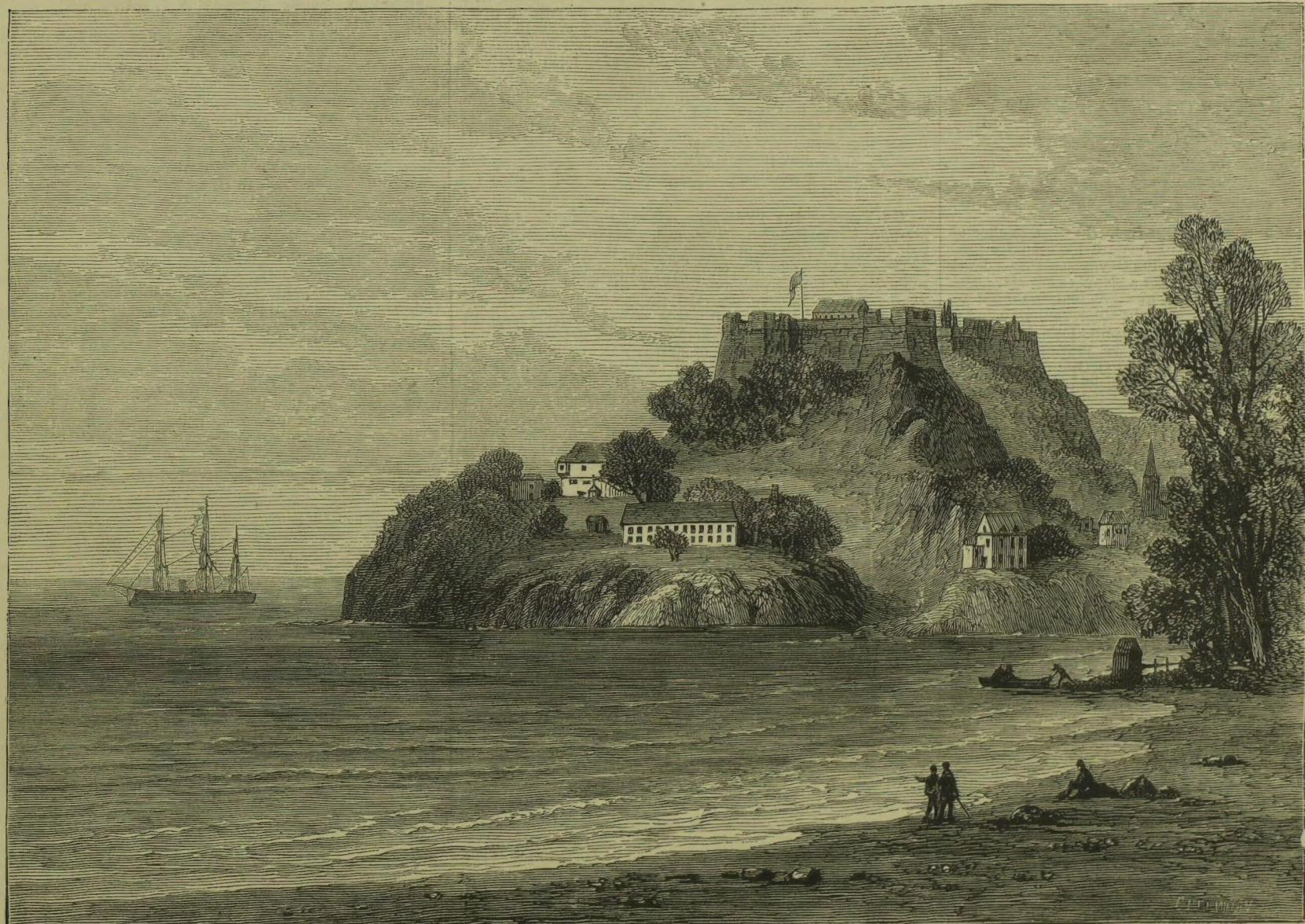
The *Sydney Morning Herald* says that the prizes won at the annual rifle-matches of the New South Wales Rifle Association were recently presented to the winners by Lord Augustus Loftus, G.C.B., in the presence of 7000 persons. The ceremony took place on the grounds of the Garden Palace. Lord Augustus Loftus drove inside the gates, accompanied by Lieut. Loftus, aide-de-camp, in the uniform of the Denbighshire Hussars. After the prizes were presented, his Excellency delivered an address, congratulating Colonel Richardson and the officers commanding corps on the admirable soldierlike bearing and appearance of their men. "I have seen most armies in Europe," he said—"too many of them—and I confess I have never seen a finer body of men than I have witnessed here on these grounds to-day."

A committed report presented to the Municipal Council of Antwerp contains the following particulars about the works of Rubens:—Altogether, Rubens produced 2719 works of art, among which 228 were sketches and 484 drawings. Of all these works, 829 have never been copied, 690 are only known by copy, and 294 seem lost. To possess as complete as possible a collection of the master's works, the city of Antwerp will have to obtain copies of 536 pictures and to collect 921 engravings. The cost of a complete Rubens collection, such as was recommended by the Artists' Congress in 1877, would amount to 30,000f. It was ultimately decided by the Municipal Council that a sum of 1500f. should be set aside annually for photographs and reprints of Rubens's missing works. The Belgian Government has granted a like sum.





BURNING OF THE DUBLIN THEATRE.—SEE PAGE 174.



H.M.S. BACCHANTE OFF PORT GEORGE, GRENADA.—SEE PAGE 174.

BURNING OF THE DUBLIN THEATRE.

The destruction of the Theatre Royal at Dublin by fire, on Monday, the 9th inst., with the death of Mr. Egerton, the stage manager, was mentioned in our last. It was early in the afternoon, but the house was being lighted up for a performance, at two o'clock, of the pantomime of "Ali Baba," in aid of the Duchess of Marlborough's Fund to relieve Irish distress; and the Duchess had promised to attend. It was the curtains of the Viceregal box that caught fire, as the boys were lighting the gas. Mr. Egerton, Mr. Hyland, Mr. Eldred and his wife, and Miss D'Aguilar, members of the theatrical company, were present at the moment, with several of the attendants. Mr. Egerton climbed up into the box to put out the fire; and, while so engaged, he is thought to have lost his balance and fallen into the orchestra, perhaps breaking a leg, so that he could not escape with the others. Mr. Waterfield, son of the chief engineer of the Gas Company, and Lieutenant Boyle, an officer of one of the regiments in garrison at Dublin, which came to assist the Fire Brigade, were seriously hurt by a falling wall. The Fire Brigade, under Captain Ingram, with the police, under Captain Talbot, and detachments of the 77th, 82nd, and 87th Regiments, with their barrack fire-engines, under command of Major Briggs, exerted themselves to prevent the fire spreading. The building, except one corner, in which were the private offices of Mr. Egerton, and of the lessee, Mr. Michael Gunn, was entirely destroyed. The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough have expressed their regret for this disaster, which has thrown hundreds of persons out of employment. It is stated that the building and properties were insured for £16,500, but that sum will be far short of the entire loss. The site of the theatre was originally the meat market. In 1790 the Royal Dublin Society erected upon it a building of which the stone front still remains, and they occupied it for the purposes of their institution until 1815. They next purchased the town mansion of the Duke of Leinster, which remained in their possession until last year, when it was handed over to the Science and Art Department. In 1820 Mr. Harris, of London, erected the theatre which has now been destroyed. The work was begun on Oct. 14, and completed in sixty-five days, 500 men having been employed upon it. Though its external architecture was not much admired, the theatre was well adapted to its purpose. It was in the form of a lyre, with two tiers of boxes, two galleries above, a spacious pit, and good stage room. Its size was about the same as that of Drury Lane Theatre. It was opened early in January, 1821, and was visited by George IV. During the autumn, after the close of the London season, it served as an opera-house, and was the scene of many dramatic and musical triumphs.

THE SAILOR PRINCES.

The cruise of H.M.S. Bacchante, under command of Captain Lord Charles Scott, having on board the two sons of the Prince of Wales, their Royal Highnesses Prince Albert Victor and Prince George, has afforded much gratification to the subjects of her Majesty in the West Indies. On the 7th ult. the ship arrived at Port of Spain, Trinidad, where the two young Princes, with their tutor, the Rev. Mr. Dalton, and Lord George Scott, were hospitably entertained. A public banquet and ball, offered by the municipality, was declined by orders from the Queen; but the Hon. Leon Agostini, one of the wealthy Creole inhabitants of Trinidad, with Mrs. Agostini, gave a splendid party at their house, which is named Coblenz; and it was honoured with the presence of their Royal Highnesses, as well as of the Governor of Trinidad. The elder Prince, who attained his sixteenth year on Jan. 8, being at Mr. and Mrs. Agostini's ball that morning, was introduced to the company as "Prince Edward of Wales" instead of "Prince Albert Victor." His brother, Prince George, is fourteen. On the 26th ult. the Bacchante arrived at the island of Grenada; and our illustration, from a sketch by Mr. P. D. Davis, shows the vessel off Fort George, at the entrance to the port. The Dagmar, with Prince Waldemar of Denmark, had been at Grenada on the Thursday before; but the Prince missed the opportunity of meeting his nephews there.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

The Grand Duke Nicholas has had an interview with President Grévy to thank him for the attentions which were paid to the Empress of Russia during her residence at Cannes. The Grand Duke said although her Majesty was still weak, she was, on the whole, in better health.

Both Chambers met on the 12th inst. In the Chamber of Deputies M. Louis Blanc brought forward his amnesty proposal. M. de Freycinet said that the Government considered it their duty to refuse the request for a plenary amnesty. The country was not in favour of the measure, and would not be until it ceased to be an instrument of political agitation. M. de Freycinet, therefore, urged the partisans of an amnesty to unite with the Government in establishing calmness throughout the country, and in giving effect to the reforms required. The Government would then perhaps be strong enough to propose a amnesty. After a debate the Chamber rejected the M. Louis Blanc's proposal by 313 to 115. In the Senate an eulogium was pronounced on M. Crémieux. Last Saturday the Senate agreed to the repeal of canal dues from April 1 next, ratified the decisions of the London International Telegraphic Congress, voted 10,000f. for the public funeral of M. Crémieux, and fixed the 23rd for the election of a life senator. M. John Lemoine will then be chosen, while the Pure Left are likely to propose M. Albert Grévy as the successor of M. Crémieux. In the Chamber the tariff debate was continued on the Protectionist side by M. Keller and M. Richard Waddington. Both Houses sat on Monday. The Senate, by 162 to 126, gave a second and final reading to M. Ferry's Education Council Bill, and fixed the other Ferry Bill for the 23rd inst. In the Chamber, after an explanation and semi-apology from M. Seignobos, which was frigidly received by his Republican colleagues, M. Richard Waddington resumed and concluded his Protectionist speech on the Tariff bill. At the sitting of the Senate on Tuesday, under the presidency of M. Barthélémy St. Hilaire, the debate on the bill on *valeurs mobilières* belonging to minors, which had already been voted by the Upper House and adopted with modifications by the Lower, was resumed. After a brief discussion the bill was adopted by 362 votes. The meeting broke up at half-past three, the next sitting being adjourned until the 23rd inst. The discussion of the Customs Tariff Bill in the Chamber shows no signs of coming to a close at present. On Tuesday M. Alain Targé continued a speech begun the previous day, and traced an intimate connection between the question of customs duties and that of transport. The speaker objected to the system of octroi duties at the entrance of cities, saying that it is no use abolishing customs duties if these are to be maintained. After speeches by M. Ronvier and M. de Tillancourt, the debate was adjourned until Thursday.

The Duc d'Aumale has been elected a member of the Academy of Fine Arts, all his competitors withdrawing. The Duke was already a member of the French Academy.

A new play by M. Sardou, entitled "Daniel Rochat," was produced in Paris at the Théâtre Français on Monday night. "Never," says the *Times* correspondent at Paris, has M. Sardou written a comedy containing more talent and more shortcomings, more beauties and more blots, than this "Daniel Rochat." The get-up was admirable. It was a perfect feast for the eyes. Profests and hisses were mingled when the name of the author was announced by Delannay; the actors were, on the other hand, warmly and justly applauded. The *Standard* correspondent says "the play will have a certain kind of stormy success, but it is too intrinsically dull long to retain possession of the boards." The general opinion of the Paris press seems to be that the play is a failure.

Madame Adelina Patti appeared last Saturday night in "La Traviata" at the Gaîté, being the first of twenty performances to be given by her up to May 15. It was quite an event. So large and fashionable a company, of which the *Gaulois* gives a list, had not been seen for a long time.

The funeral of M. Crémieux took place in Paris yesterday week with State honours. The pall-bearers were MM. Gambetta, Cochery, and Jules Ferry, as representing the Chamber, and MM. Pelletan, Cazot, and Arago on behalf of the Senate. Several speeches were made at the grave, but there was no political demonstration.

The late M. Raspail has bequeathed his fortune of nearly £80,000 to the Paris municipality, on condition of its being employed in loans to working men's societies.

A part of the Palais de l'Industrie has been set aside for the exhibition of the prizes in the lottery got up for the benefit of the sufferers by the floods in Spain and of the French poor. The exhibition, which was opened on Tuesday, includes a diamond set valued at 100,000f. and 50,000f. worth of silver plate, the "gros lot" being a Government security of the value of £6000 sterling.

An extraordinary prize of 3000 francs has been awarded by the Académie des Sciences to Mr. Crookes, F.R.S., in recognition of his recent discoveries in Molecular Physics and Radiant Matter.

An elderly English gentleman, named Pearson, who had lodgings in a house near the Western Railway Station, Paris, was attacked on Sunday afternoon by a young man, who tried to stab him, his object evidently being robbery. But Mr. Pearson closed with him, and the noise made by the struggle aroused the porter's wife, who made a gallant pursuit of the culprit, and caught him in the lodge, where she held him until the police came. It is believed that Mr. Pearson will recover from the serious injuries he has sustained.

SPAIN.

In the Chamber of Deputies on Tuesday the Marquis de Orovia, the Minister of Finance laid before the House the Budget for 1880-1. He estimated the revenue for the coming year at 792,000,000 pesetas, and the expenditure at 829,000,000 pesetas. The maximum amount of the floating for the year would be one fourth of the estimated receipts, and the Minister asked for authorisation to borrow money to that amount. He pointed out that it might be necessary to exceed the maximum named in the event of the outbreak of war or serious disturbances. The Minister also demanded leave to procure the sum destined for the service of the floating debt by means of bonds, anticipating the receipts of the present Budget. The Government furthermore wished to be able to obtain funds, in exchange for pagares or draughts on the Imperial Treasury, at a rate to be fixed by the Minister of Finance. The pagares would be drawn at three, six, or nine months.

The Budget statement caused a fall in Spanish Consolidated Stock on the unofficial Bourse this evening.

Señor Romero y Robledo, the Spanish Minister of the Interior, stated in answer to an interpellation that no regularly organised band of brigands existed in Spain; that a few marauders only had combined for the purpose of committing robberies, and had dispersed on being pursued by the gendarmes.

A train, which was proceeding on Sunday from Andalusia to Madrid, was stopped by sixteen brigands, who tore up some of the rails. Marshal Serrano, who was in one of the carriages, called out the lieutenant and four gendarmes, who were guarding the treasure, consisting of forty thousand pesetas, which was probably the object of the attack. The bandits were repulsed and pursued, but one of the passengers was injured, and a gendarme was wounded.

ITALY.

On Tuesday the Parliament was opened by the King in person. In the speech from the throne his Majesty announced that two bills would be presented, one for the gradual abolition of the grist tax, and the other for extending the suffrage. Referring to the friendly relations of the Government with foreign Powers, he said that the preservation of peace was warmly desired by Italy, and was a matter of great moment to her. It was but natural, therefore, that she should scrupulously observe the Treaty of Berlin. It was also easy for her to fulfill the promise she had made, that when once her unity had been secured she would become an element of concord and progress. His Majesty, in conclusion, expressed a hope that the present Session would not be less active, but would be more fruitful in results, than the last. The speech was frequently interrupted with loud cheers. The Queen, the Prince of Naples, and Princes Amadeo and Carignano were present. Their Majesties and the Princes were enthusiastically greeted in the hall of the Chamber, as well as by the large crowds which congregated in the streets.

The *Official Gazette* published on Monday a list of twenty-six newly-appointed senators.

Considering that emigration from Italy has assumed the extraordinary proportion of an annual average of 130,000 persons, the Government has issued a special circular to the prefects recommending stronger measures against emigration than they have hitherto had recourse to.

The Swedish Arctic exploring-ship Vega entered Naples last Saturday afternoon. Two steamers and a number of boats went out to meet her. A salute was fired by the guns at the arsenal; and flags were hoisted on all the Italian vessels in the bay. The members of the scientific expedition landed at the arsenal and were received by all the civil and military authorities. All the public edifices were decorated with the flags of Italy and Sweden. A splendid banquet was given on Monday night by the municipality to the expedition in the newly-opened magnificent hall of the Hotel Royal. Count Giusso presided. A *Daily News* telegram says that all the heads of the local authorities and the Consuls of all the European Powers were present. Altogether, 134 sat down to table. Professor Nordenskjöld replied shortly to the toast proposed by the Prefect. Numerous toasts and speeches, short and embarrassed, were made in French. Captain Appallander, however, spoke fairly in English, and in complimentary terms of Italy. The company broke up at nine for a gala performance at San Carlo, where an enthusiastic reception awaited them.

The Latin text of the Pope's long-expected Encyclical on the Divine institution of matrimony fills twelve columns of Monday night's *Osservatore Romano*. His immediate design is to remove marriage from all civil jurisdiction whatsoever. Tracing its history from Patriarchal to Apostolic times, he shows that Christ elevated it into a sacrament which only his Church could administer. The attempt made under various guises by the modern spirit to rob the Church of her right either to impose or to dissolve the marriage tie must be resisted by the whole Catholic world. His Holiness then indicates the conditions under which the separation of husband and wife may be sanctioned by the Church, and concludes by exhorting the universal Episcopate to communicate his teaching to the faithful for their welfare in both worlds.

GERMANY.

The Emperor William met with an accident last Saturday, which has fortunately had no serious consequences. Coming from the Sing Academie, where he had been attending a performance, he slipped and fell down some steps, but got up unhurt.

The German Parliament was opened on Thursday, the 12th inst., by Count Stolberg, who read the Emperor's Speech, which stated that an increase in the contributions from the various States would be required, as well as a loan, to meet the most urgent items of expenditure. A large portion of the Speech was devoted to the increase of the army, which was declared to be without prejudice to the pacific tendency of the policy of the Empire. The Reichstag, it was added, will be asked to prolong for a fitting period the new Socialist Law, which expires in March, 1881. At the conclusion of the Speech Herr von Frankenstein, former Vice-President of the Reichstag, called for cheers for the Emperor, in which all the members heartily joined. Next day the Parliament elected its President and Vice-Presidents, Count Arnim-Boitzenburg, belonging to the Imperial German party, was chosen President by 154 out of 244 valid votes; Herr von Bennigsen, National Liberal, receiving 89 votes. Herr von Frankenstein, of the Centre, was elected first Vice-President, and Herr Hoelder, National Liberal, second Vice-President.

The Prussian Government has presented to the German Federal Council a bill on the subject of the coasting trade. It proposes that only German merchant-vessels shall be allowed to convey goods from one German port to another, but that foreign ships shall be able to acquire this privilege either by treaty or by an Imperial ordinance. Infringements of the regulations of the bill will be punished by a fine not exceeding 1500 marks, and the ship and cargo will be liable to be confiscated.

The Lower House of the Prussian Diet held a sitting on the 13th, at which the remainder of the budget bills were read the second time. The matriculatory contribution of Prussia is set down in the Budget at 43,641,753 marks, and the revenue and expenditure for the financial year 1880-1 are each estimated at 798,985,580 marks, the two thus balancing exactly. The ordinary expenditure amounts to 760,223,930 marks and the extraordinary outlay to 38,761,650 marks. In Monday's sitting the Budget estimates were read the third time without any essential modification of the form in which they passed the second reading. During the debate Herr Brueel, a Hanoverian Particularist, attacked the Governor of Hanover for allowing the circulation of a book in which offensive terms were used to the former reigning family. This aroused the indignation of Count Eulenberg, the Minister of the Interior, who said that if the fact was as stated it could only be due to a regretted error. Herr Grumbrecht declared that an overwhelming majority of the Hanoverian people were well satisfied with the Prussian rule.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Baron Kriegsau, formerly a chief of department in the Austrian Ministry of the Interior, has been appointed Minister of Finance, and Baron Conrad von Eybesfeld, the Governor of Lower Austria, has been intrusted with the portfolio of Minister of Public Worship and Instruction. By these appointments the Cabinet will be complete.

The session of the Austrian and Hungarian Delegations has been closed. The last act was the common vote of the two Delegations on the sum asked for the building of a new barracks in Szegedin, which the Hungarian Delegation had voted and the Austrian Delegation, from scruples of principle, had refused. The voting was equal, and the measure was rejected.

The independent papers at Pesth have published long details of the maladministration of two districts in Hungary which formerly belonged to the military boundary, but have been for some time incorporated in Hungary. The son-in-law of one of the Honved Ministers is charged with having received bribes, and other officials have embezzled public funds.

GREECE.

M. Delyannis, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, has stated in the Chamber that the negotiations in Constantinople with the Porte on the subject of the new frontier had failed. The Government believed that the European Cab nets were at present endeavouring to effect an agreement among themselves with a view to mediation.

RUSSIA.

There has been another attempt, more audacious than preceding ones, on the Czar's life. This time he has been attacked in his own palace; and but for a seemingly accidental delay in the assembling of the Imperial family for dinner, most probably some, if not all of their number would have fallen victims to the conspirators.

By a telegram through Reuter's agency we learn that an explosion took place on Tuesday in the Winter Palace, but no member of the Imperial family was injured. The mine by which the explosion was effected was laid below the guard-room, which is situated under the dining-hall. Thirty-five men of the Palace Guard were injured, and five of them have since died. The explosion made a hole ten feet long and six feet wide in the floor of the dining-room. Through an accidental delay, the Imperial family had not yet assembled to dinner.

The following official announcement of the explosion was published on Wednesday morning:—"At about seven o'clock yesterday (Tuesday) evening, 17th inst., an explosion occurred in the basement of the Imperial Winter Palace, under the principal guard-room, by which eight of the soldiers of the Finland Regiment of the Guard, then on duty, were killed, and forty-five others injured. The flooring of the guard room and several gaspipes were damaged. An official inquiry is proceeding."

EGYPT.

The Government has concluded an arrangement amicably settling the claims of the Paris Syndicate. The Syndicate acquires all stocks hypothecated with them by the Egyptian Government, including the founders' shares of the Suez Canal and the United Debt shares held on account of the Alexandria Harbour contractors. The Syndicate gives in exchange a final receipt for all claims against the Egyptian Government, at the same time liquidating the claim of the Alexandria Harbour contractors.

According to intelligence telegraphed by the Governor-

General of Taka to the Khedive, the power of King John of Abyssinia is seriously threatened by the revolt of several chiefs. King Menelek of Shoa is reported to have refused to visit him.

AMERICA.

The President has issued a proclamation forbidding encroachments upon Indian territory, and enjoining the strict observance of treaty obligations with the Indians.

Replying to an address written by nine coloured members of the Virginia Legislature, expressing their confidence in him as the protector of their race, and favouring his nomination as a candidate for the Presidency, Mr. Sherman, the Secretary of the Treasury, states that he will seek to sustain them in the enjoyment of full civil and political liberty, and expresses his confident belief that race distinctions will before long be ignored.

Mr. Washburne, formerly United States Minister in Paris, has declined to become a candidate for the presidency.

The California Assembly has, by 73 to 2, passed the bill, previously voted by the Senate, prohibiting corporations from employing Chinese. The Governor immediately approved the bill. Working men continue to visit factories and demand the discharge of Chinese.

Several lives have been lost in a tornado which has passed over the States of Kentucky and Tennessee.

A column of United States troops is reported to have fallen into an ambuscade, while in pursuit of some Indians in New Mexico, on the 10th inst., and to have been compelled to retreat with the loss of several men and the abandonment of their provisions.

The House Committee on Naval Affairs have unanimously reported a resolution authorising the Secretary of the Navy to detail ships to carry relief supplies to Ireland. Mr. James Gordon Bennett has appointed the following committee to distribute the *New York Herald* Irish Relief Fund:—Cardinal MacCloskey, Colonel King-Harman, M.P., Professor Baldwin, Mr. William Shaw, M.P., and Mr. Charles S. Parnell, M.P. The last-named gentleman has agreed to act on the committee of the Irish relief fund organised by the *New York Herald*, on the condition that his acceptance shall not interfere with his political programme, and that during his absence in America Mr. Patrick Egan, of Dublin, shall act as his proxy. Mr. Parnell has telegraphed from America that unless an early dissolution of Parliament necessitates his return to Ireland he contemplates visiting Australia and India.

The thirty-first annual report of the Astor Library, which has been submitted to the Legislature at Washington, shows the enormous progress which has been made with this philanthropic scheme. Mr. John Jacob Astor, grandson of the founder of the library, has conveyed to the trustees a piece of land adjoining the present building on the north, and he proposes also to furnish the funds for an additional building, increasing the working space of the library by almost one half. The institution was founded in 1848, when Mr. J. J. Astor bequeathed 400,000 dols. "for the establishment of a public library in New York," and named as its first trustees Washington Irving, W. B. Astor, the poet Fitz Greene-Halleck, and Samuel B. Ruggles, of whom only Mr. Ruggles now survives. On Feb. 1, 1853, the library was opened, offering without restriction to the public use 80,000 volumes, carefully selected, classified, and systematically arranged. More space, however, was speedily required, and in 1855 Mr. W. B. Astor conveyed to the trustees a piece of land adjoining the library, and forthwith proceeded to erect a suitable building upon it. By the year 1859, accordingly, the whole building had a frontage of 130 ft., and contained more than 110,000 volumes. Ten years later, or twenty after the incorporation, the total amount expended in books had risen to upwards of 240,000 dols. On the death of Mr. William B. Astor in 1875, the property of the library had almost doubled. It has since been further increased by donations, so that it now amounts to the large total of 1,112,957 dols. The fund for maintaining the library has likewise grown to 421,000 dols., and the number of books has reached almost 200,000.

CANADA.

While being conveyed in a covered sleigh last Saturday evening at Ottawa, the Marquis of Lorne and Princess Louise sustained some injuries by the overturning of the vehicle, which was dragged by the horses a distance of four hundred yards. The latest bulletins report her Royal Highness to be progressing most favourably. She took a drive on Monday.

The Marquis of Lorne, in his speech at the opening of the Dominion Parliament on the 12th inst., invited the Legislature to take into consideration the means of showing practical sympathy with the distress in Ireland, and, with the concurrence of her Majesty the Queen, recommended Parliament to sanction the appointment of a permanent representative of the Dominion in London, with the object of guarding Canadian interests. The Governor-General has subsequently sent a message to the House recommending a vote of 100,000 dollars for the relief of Irish distress.

Collections in aid of the Irish Relief Fund were made in most of the Catholic churches in Canada on Sunday last.

It is proposed by the Canadian Government (the *Standard* says) that on the appointment of Sir A. Galt Resident Minister in London, the services of Mr. Annan should be retained as Chief Emigration Agent for the Dominion.

The Government of Canada, it is said, has now under consideration a proposal, emanating from Sir John Glover, the Governor of Newfoundland, for making St. John's the summer port for the whole Dominion. The idea is to connect St. John's with the mainland by a railway across the island and a line of ferry steamers across the Straits of Belle Isle, whence a line would form a junction with the Inter-Colonial. By this arrangement two or three days could be saved to vessels, and the resources of Newfoundland would be opened up.

The Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, having passed the Estimates, has been prorogued.

So fatally destructive to cattle and sheep has been the severe weather latterly prevailing at Victoria (Vancouver Island) that, unless it moderates, fears are entertained that the colony will have to depend upon Oregon and California for its meat supply for the next three years.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Intelligence received from Cape Town, dated Jan. 27, reports that Sir Garnet Wolseley had had an interview with Mr. Pretorius, which was understood to have been without results. It is added that Mr. Pretorius has declined to accept a seat in the Transvaal Executive Council.

The Natal Legislative Council has refused to grant any provision for the maintenance of a British residency in Zululand. An amendment favouring the reconsideration of the question has, however, been introduced. The Council has decided upon the introduction of a property tax in Natal.

The great National Exhibition at Brussels will be opened on June 18.

The arrangements which have recently been made by the Post Office authorities to send the Indian mail to Brindisi by way of Dover and Calais in lieu of Southampton began yesterday week, when the first outward-bound Indian mails passed

through Dover, and were conveyed to Calais by the French mail steamer France.

The death of Hannes Arnason, professor of philosophy at the Theological School of Iceland, is announced. He has left 30,000 crowns for granting stipends to theologians who wish to study philosophy abroad, especially in Germany.

Prince Alexander of Bulgaria arrived at St. Petersburg on Monday morning and proceeded to the Winter Palace, where he will reside during his stay. He has issued a proclamation to his people reiterating the usual thankfulness to the Emperor of Russia.

The *New York Herald* publishes a telegram from Aspinwall of last Saturday's date announcing that the engineers appointed by M. de Lesseps to examine the proposed route for the Panama Canal have made their report, in which they unanimously favour a level canal, and estimate the cost at 843,000,000. The work, it is anticipated, will occupy eight years.

Forty-two thousand people emigrated from the province of Kars from the time of the Russian occupation up to Oct. 13, 1879, and there is no prospect of the exodus ceasing until the spring. The emigrants are said to have received half a million of roubles, on account of expropriation, contributed in nearly equal shares by the Government for the land and by private buyers for their houses and property in Kars.

The Servian Parliament has approved of the Treaty of Commerce with England, by one clause of which British subjects will have the right to buy and sell land in Servia. M. Ristic, the Premier, at the closing sitting of the Skupstchina, on Monday, expressed his satisfaction at the conclusion of the treaty of commerce between England and Servia, and stated that he was in hopes that English capital would be forthcoming at an early date for the construction of a railway from Salomica to Servia.

During the past week there was a small decrease in the arrival of live stock and fresh beef from the United States and Canada. There was not a single live sheep landed from the United States and Canada, a circumstance which has not occurred for many months past, but there was a larger number of pigs landed. The following steamers brought live stock: the Brazilian with 616 head of live cattle and 166 pigs; the Lake Nepigon, with 140 head of cattle; the Iowa with 717 head of cattle and 200 pigs. The steamers with fresh meat were the Germanic, with 1528 quarters of fresh beef and 550 carcasses of mutton; the British Crown, with 959 quarters of beef; and the City of Montreal, with 760 quarters of beef, 125 carcasses of mutton, and 149 pigs.

THE AFGHAN WAR.

There is scarcely any news of military or political movements this week, except a rumour of the approach of a Turkoman force from the north to within forty miles of Balkh; and it is said that this force is accompanied by Abdurrahman Khan, son of Shere Ali's elder brother, long a refugee in Turkestan and pensioner of the Russian Government. At Ghuzni there is, it is there understood, disagreement between the great Mullah, Mooshk-i-Alim, and General Mahomed Jan, and the former, it is believed, has withdrawn from active participation in the plans of the latter.

General Bright's exploration of the Lughman Valley continues, and may result in the adoption of an easier and shorter route between Jellalabad and Cabul. A telegram from Calcutta states that General Bright while reconnoitring in the Lughman Valley crossed over to Charbagh, and proceeded to Kirgal and Adrabadreck, where the inhabitants received him in a friendly manner. Forty-two mule loads of Government property, which had been stolen from Jellalabad, have been recovered and sent to the British camp.

ROYAL INSTITUTION LECTURES.

MUSCULAR CONTRACTION.

Professor E. A. Schäfer, F.R.S., in his fifth lecture, given on Tuesday, the 10th inst., resumed his consideration of the "muscle-curve," that is, the autograph of the contracting muscle traced by means of the myograph. After describing the complicated apparatus used, he proceeded to analyse the curve, well represented on the screen. Frogs' muscles, which retain their vitality long after the death of the animal, were employed for the numerous experiments. The periods of latency (or rather the gradual development of muscular energy), of rise, and of fall, having been described, the Professor explained the Helmholtz-Pouillet method, and showed how it could be modified for demonstration, by using either an electro-magnet as a time marker, instead of a galvanometer, a chronographic lever, or an ordinary lever with electric punctures. He then examined the conditions influencing the "muscle-curve" (including the period of latency). He showed, first, the effect of stimuli of varying strength, maximum, medium, and minimum, the strength of the shock being modified by the shifting secondary coil. The rapidity and height of the curve were increased up to a certain point, but beyond this the increased intensity of the stimulus produced no further effect. The influence of temperature upon muscle was next illustrated—1, at normal temperatures; 2, when cooled by allowing ice-cold water to circulate round the chamber in which the prepared muscle was placed; and 3, when heated above the normal state by warm water. The effect of these conditions, as well as that of exhaustion, not only upon the "muscle-curve" itself, but also upon the period of latency, was fully discussed; and it was shown that the activity of muscle is increased by a strong stimulus, warmth, and rest, and diminished by a weak stimulus, cold, and exhaustion; and that muscular contraction is more prolonged when its activity or rapidity is diminished.

ATOMIC MOTION AND SPECTRUM ANALYSIS.

Professor Dewar, M.A., F.R.S., in his fifth lecture on Recent Chemical Progress, given on Thursday, the 12th inst., resumed the consideration of the varied motions of the atoms or molecules of which all bodies are composed, and the relation to the spectra they present when subjected to high temperatures. He reminded his audience that a large part of a spectrum is invisible to our eyes, but may be rendered visible by certain means; the rays beyond the violet end being termed fluorescent, those beyond the red calorescent; and referred to M. Cornu's map of the ultra violet rays. The spectra of elementary bodies are more simple than those of compounds, which are influenced by the tendency of their constituents to break up and recombine. The character of their spectra consequently varies at different temperatures, and peculiarly so when other bodies, such as hydrogen or carbonic acid, are introduced. The spectra of elements also vary in complexity: thus, the spectrum of hydrogen and that of lithium are simple, while those of calcium and iron are much more complicated. A copy of Rutherford's large solar spectrum was exhibited, and the dark absorption or reversal lines pointed out, and reference was made to Kirchhoff's important discovery that some of these lines coincide in their position with the bright lines peculiar to the spectra of certain metals, by which he was led to infer the existence of the vapour of

iron and other metals in the atmosphere of the sun. Professor Dewar then explained, as the result of his spectroscopic investigations at high temperatures, that elements in various amounts might exist in the solar atmosphere, although not indicated in the spectrum. Thus, when he introduced hydrogen into the electric arc containing the vapours of various metals, the lines peculiar to the metals vanished, leaving only those of the spectra of hydrogen and carbon. Hydrogen, from its mobility and consequent cooling power, has a striking effect. The variations of the coloured bands and the reversal lines, due to the changes of the constituents of the flame, were attributed to their different degrees of atomic motion. In conclusion, the Professor commented on the very great importance of photographing the spectra, and showed how it was done almost instantaneously, thereby affording, for leisurely study, the varied spectra of bodies at different temperatures and in different combinations. Several of these photographs were exhibited and closely examined.

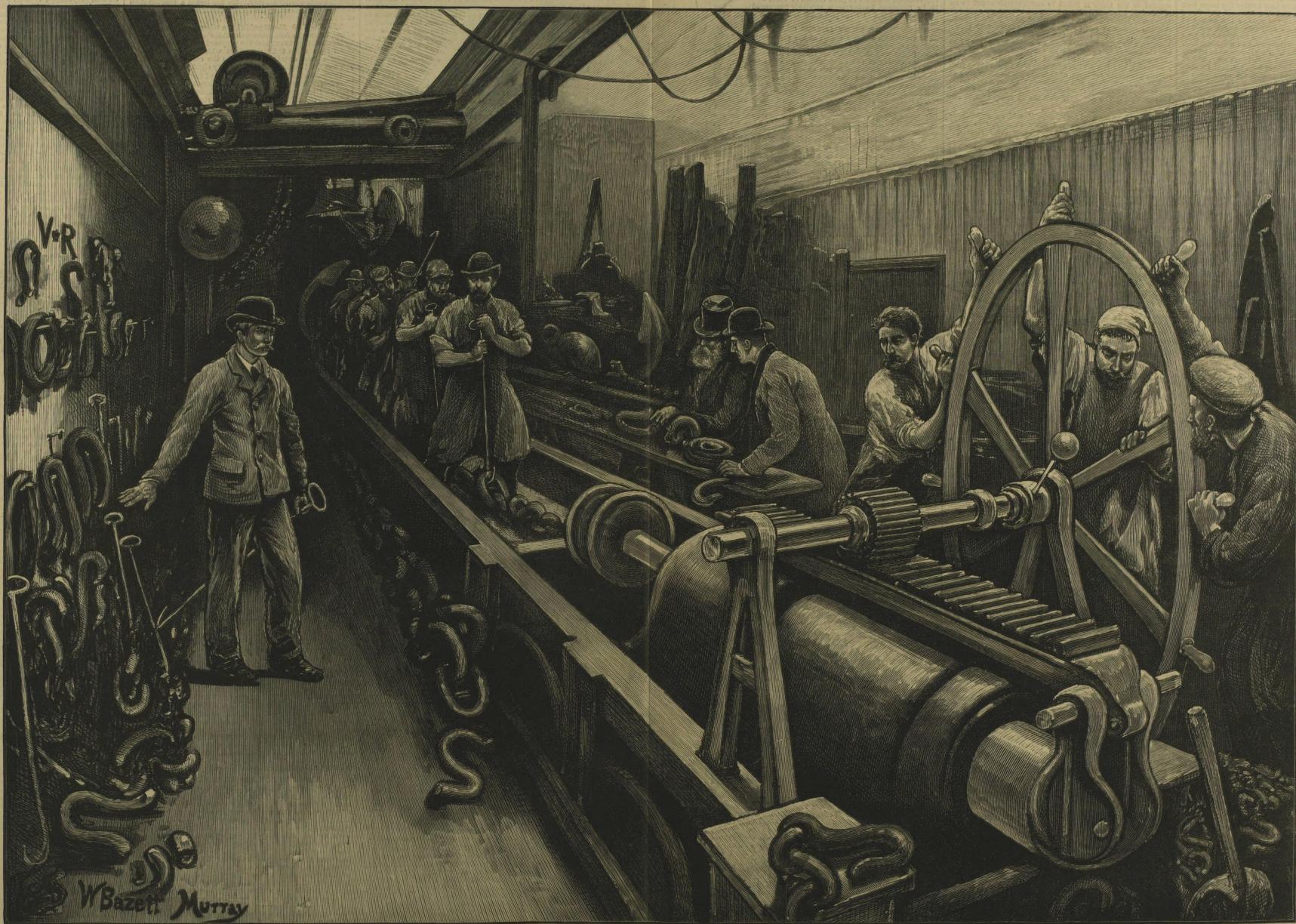
WHEATSTONE'S TELEGRAPHIC ACHIEVEMENTS.

Mr. W. H. Preece, C.E., Electrician of the Post Office Department, who gave the discourse at the evening meeting on Friday, the 13th inst., described and experimentally illustrated the inventions of Wheatstone connected with telegraphy. Charles Wheatstone's early years, he said, were chiefly spent in investigating the laws of sound and optics, in regard to which he made several remarkable discoveries; and it was not till 1834, when he took the chair of Natural Philosophy in King's College, London, that he began his electrical career, which he continued till his death, in 1875. With the exception of his experimental determination of the velocity of a certain electric disturbance, nearly all his electrical inventions arose out of his telegraphs. While studying the practicability of the telegraph, no new idea, he became acquainted with William Fothergill Cooke, and by their united efforts the telegraph was forced on the public. Wheatstone was the brilliant man of science, and Cooke the energetic man of business. Wheatstone broke the Columbus egg by assimilating the facts of Oersted and Ampère with the laws of Ohm, so as to produce electro-magnetic effects at great distances, which all previous experimenters had failed to do. The first system of Cooke and Wheatstone was the "needle system," still seen at every railway station; but in 1840 they produced the "alphabetical dial system," aiming at simplicity and universality. Magneto-electricity, the discovery of Faraday, was successfully employed. This system, improved by Wheatstone in 1858, has been wellnigh perfected by the Post Office department, by whom it is very extensively employed. In the same year Wheatstone, aided by Mr. Stroh, produced his "automatic system," by which the capacity of wires for the conveyance of messages was very greatly increased; and this, perhaps the most perfect telegraphic system in the world, in the hands of the Post Office department, has grown to a veritable giant. The progress of the telegraph in this country was shown by Mr. Preece to have been very rapid. In the four weeks of February, 1870, there were 554,800 messages sent; and in the corresponding period now it is estimated that there are 1,902,483; and in the metropolis the proportion of increase is from 138,534 to 726,199 messages. In the Central Telegraph station alone the number of messages dealt with daily has increased from 14,000 to 40,000. The Post Office delivers to the press one million of words every day, and nearly all this is done by Wheatstone's latest telegraph achievement, by which 151 circuits are worked. Mr. Preece explained the "repeating system" by which rapidity is much assured. Wheatstone, he remarked, in concluding, was "no philosopher nor deep investigator, but his devotion to science was irrepressible. He was essentially a practical man, and his scientific applications and experiments were characterised by extraordinary originality, refined beauty, eminent adaptability, and remarkable fecundity. His telegraphic achievements place him in the first rank of the wonderful geniuses of this wonderful age." At 9.40 p.m. messages were received from the Central Office, the same as were transmitted throughout Great Britain and Ireland. Very much of Sir Charles Wheatstone's original apparatus was exhibited and used.

JOHN SEBASTIAN BACH.

Professor Ernst Pauer's second lecture, given on Saturday last, the 14th inst., was devoted to the great Bach. He belonged to a German Protestant family, which, to avoid persecution, removed from Hungary to Thuringia. His ancestor, Veit Backh, or Bach, was a baker, endowed, like his descendants, with musical powers; and his family, when scattered, met annually at Eisenach or Erfurt to practise their compositions. John Sebastian was born at Eisenach March 21, 1685. His talents soon appeared, and he was taught, but repressed, by his brother John Christoph. At thirteen, he received further instruction as a choir-boy, and his progress was rapid. He became organist at Arnstadt in 1704; at Mühlhausen in 1707; and to the Duke at Weimar in 1708. In 1717, in a musical contest at Dresden, he excelled the vain and eccentric Louis Jean Marchand, the organist of Versailles, who fled rather than renew the trial invited by Bach. In 1720 he lost his wife, and married again in 1722. He was happy in both unions, and left a large family, four sons being eminent musicians. In 1721 he visited Reincke, the Hamburg organist, aged ninety, who said that organ improvisation would not die out with him when he heard Bach. In 1723 he became director of St. Thomas's music school and capell-meister to the Elector of Saxony. Here he showed his soul to be in his art, and his indifference to the luxuries and superfluities of life; yet he was very affectionate, feeling deeply the death of his children and friend, and pouring out his grief in pathetic music. In his sixty-second year he was honourably received by Frederick II., King of Prussia, and tried all the organs in Potsdam. He soon after became blind, and died, July 28, 1750. Bach was essentially a creative and inventive composer; every part of his work has its meaning and indispensable place to maintain beauty and equilibrium. His music is logical, systematic, and yet impressive, by its simplicity, precision, and flow. Before Bach, organ music was monotonous and ecclesiastical; and he greatly helped forward the reaction, combining in his works the clearness of the Italian and the elegance of the French with the solidity of the German style. His music is not antiquated, but possesses a delicious quaintness. He renovated every kind of music, even dances; and in the amount of his varied works, including five "Passions" and seven masses, he is only approached by Handel, Mozart, Haydn, Rossini, and Schubert. After suggestions as to the best mode of studying Bach, the lecturer closed with Goethe's words, "To me it is with Bach as if the eternal harmonies discoursed with one another."

Mr. F. J. Bramwell will give the discourse at the next evening meeting, Friday, Feb. 27, being "A Sequel to the Thunderer Gun Explosion." On Saturday next, Feb. 28, Mr. George Saintsbury will give the first of four lectures on "Dryden and his Period."



TESTING CHAIN CABLES, CHATHAM DOCKYARD: "SLACKING OFF."—SEE PAGE 181.

TALK OF THE WEEK.

The old story of the Irishman who tumbled down a well and cried out at the top of his voice, "I will drown, no one shall save me," is usually quoted as a curious example of the confusion of idioms; but such a rash statement would be perfectly true of the acrobats, male and female, who nightly risk their necks in their endeavour to feed and encourage an unhealthy excitement. The more they tumble the more they appear to like it. Lulu, Zazel, and Zæo have all proved the fallacy of trusting to the security of nets or the science of catapults, and yet no sooner do they escape with a severe shaking than they are at it again, assuring directors and proprietors that a catapult is not so dangerous as a cricket ball, or a cannon as the hunting field. People profess to be very much shocked, but the excitement soon blows over, and at this moment Zazel and Zæo, who have both tumbled through the meshes of a net upon the hard ground, are re-engaged to give public performances. But the eccentricity of these young girls, who, if they have any apprehension at all, must die daily, is nothing to the recklessness of one Herr Holtum, the King of the Cannon Ball, who laid a bet that no one would catch the shell out of a seven-pounder, and promptly knocked over, stunned and fractured, the skull of an ambitious artisan who accepted the challenge. This is "seeking the bubble reputation even in the cannon's mouth" with a vengeance, but not the way that Shakspere pointed out.

When the sun attempts to shine, and those delicious pale double violets are seen about the streets, then is the time for the picture galleries. Bond-street was full last Saturday, and the carriage of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales was waiting at the doors of more than one exhibition. It is well that so distinguished a patron of the fine arts should be thus early in the field. Perhaps the most curious of the early spring shows is that devoted to the drama, containing, as it does, dramatic studies of the past, and the work of actors and actresses of the present. The result is curious enough, and reveals a strong undercurrent of talent amongst the more prominent members of the theatrical profession. Everyone knew that Charles Mathews could paint and draw; and the talent of Mr. Rip van Winkle Jefferson has already been presented for judgment before the selective committee of the Royal Academy. Most people also were aware that Mr. Vokes divided his time between exercising the leg muscles and painting delicious dreamy coves on the Cornish coast. As for Mr. Forbes Robertson, he is a past master of his art; but who would have imagined that Mrs. Keeley at her advanced age would suddenly take to painting landscapes, or that one of the laughable young scapragraces in "Betsy"—Mr. Giddens—wielded such a pure and poetical brush amongst the pure green woodlands and riverside nooks of Old England; that Mr. Sothern boasted an artist son of very remarkable promise; that Miss Geneviève Ward was a rival of Sara Bernhardt herself in the double arts of painting and sculpture; or that Mr. W. H. Kendal could carry off the honours of a well-filled picture-gallery by his bold and clever work. The idea is a good one; but it ought to be expanded from an ordinary picture-gallery to a dramatic museum of curiosities.

Another literary man and journalist has obtained an honourable seat in the House of Commons, for it may not be generally known that Mr. Edward Clarke, the new member for Southwark, at one time showed his conspicuous energy by working hard at the Bar and writing for a certain daily newspaper devoted to the most stanch and unflinching Conservatism. Many and many an able review and leading article has Mr. Clarke written before that eventful day at the Old Bailey when he, with such ability and eloquence, defended Alice Rhodes in the Penge murder case, gained the admiration of his companions and the good opinion of the solicitors, and soon got so many briefs that he was able to put aside the clever and critical pen.

It does not require the proverbial half eye to see that M. Victorien Sardou's new play will not do for England; and those who are learned in reading between the lines can see pretty clearly that "Daniel Rochat" will not do for France either. What is coming to all the dramatists? One treats his audience to a repulsive and realistic study of the horrors of intemperance, and another occupies the stage for three or four hours in a religious lecture and an argument on the respective value of free thought and orthodoxy. M. Sardou's "diploma picture" (for every dramatic Academician is bound to present a new play to the Théâtre Français) is unquestionably and deservedly a failure, for the purpose of the theatre is not to excite people to religious discussions and unseemly sarcasm, but to put forward a human problem of life in the most fascinating and attractive manner possible. Clearly, it is not for the sake of gain that Sardou, gifted as he is, has made so lamentable a mistake, for in all probability he will forfeit the valuable fees which adaptations in America, England, and the English-speaking countries would have given him. Such a motive is impossible as it stands, and is incapable of alteration, for neither in London nor New York does any one care for a controversy over civil marriage, which is comparatively unknown as such. The managers of England, France, and America are now at their wit's end what to do, and will continue to be so until the Sardous of our time leave off airing their eccentric notions and strive to imitate the teaching of that master of humanity William Shakspere. A play should not be for one country, but for all countries—not for one moment of feverish thought, but for all time. Mr. Bancroft has secured the refusal of this dramatic sermon, and doubtless he has not been long in giving it. The Haymarket Theatre, even without a pit, would scarcely endure the uncompromising Atheism of Daniel Rochat or the pretty Protestantism of Miss Léa, the English heroine. The play abounds in unpardonable solecisms, which M. Sardou might easily have avoided had he made any study of England, or taken the trouble to visit this country. But they may be expected from an author who sees no world beyond Paris, and honestly believes that English taste can be attracted by such a play.

A sick jurymen is no doubt an unfortunate factor in a "celebrated case," and has been known before now to necessitate that process so beloved by children clustered about a storyteller by the winter fire—namely, "to tell it all over again." This repetition arrangement, however inconvenient, is at any rate curious, and a most interesting comparison might be made between the facts and fallacies of the two trials. Would the same story be told now as then? Would the clever cross-examiner make the same points as before and puzzle in the same fashion? Would nervousness be increased in the witness-box, or would confidence be established? I once knew a case in which a journalist was compelled to write a very important article twice over. He had done his task, given it to the boy, and gone tired to bed. Suddenly, some time after, the boy returned and said he had lost the article. What was to be done? Nothing but write it all over again. The next morning the original article was found, and the two documents differed only in two or three unimportant sentences. The subject had been registered on the writer's brain, and there had been no time for its disappearance.

"To make the deaf to hear; the blind to see." Science appears to have done the one and imagination has helped to do the other. An ingenious American gentleman—it is ever America whence these inventions spring—has hit upon a successful and very pretty plan by which sweet music can be conveyed on waves of sound to the deaf mute. All that is required is a prettily-shaped hand-screen, which, with its indiarubber coating, is the basis of the invention, and when applied to the teeth is found to communicate sound in an extraordinary manner. Now, biting a hand-screen need not necessarily look ridiculous, for, by the slightest exercise of art, it might appear to rest on the lips and make a very pretty picture. As for the efforts to make the blind see, Professor Fawcett, who years ago met with an accident that shut him out for ever from the beauty of the world, has given in a charming speech some beautiful ideas on the duty of resignation, and has told us how even now he can enjoy with all the passionate fondness of old days the trout-streams of Wiltshire, the wildness and expanse of Exmoor, a ride across the wind-swept downs, or a long day's skating on the fens of Lincolnshire. The beautiful doctrine of compensation has accentuated his imagination.

"It has been reserved for an actor," said an enthusiastic comedian at the Lyceum the other evening, "to bring together three hundred representatives of every form and phase of art, and to make an occasion that will be as memorable as it was imposing. No one else could do it, my dear Sir, but a Lord Mayor or a Prince of the Blood Royal!" No doubt the commemorative banquet given by Mr. Henry Irving on the occasion of the hundredth night of "The Merchant of Venice" was a very remarkable occasion, as much for the intellect of the assembly as for the dignity and nobility of the scene. Nothing was spared for the purpose of enriching the banquet; and I could only have wished that the praise of the host had been slightly divested of its cynicism and adorned with a little more sincerity. Clever, no doubt; amusing, unquestionably; and genial throughout was the speech of Lord Houghton; but, considering the occasion that prompted it, and the man to whom it was dedicated, there might, perhaps, have come from the lips of a poet and an artist something in the way of congratulation that Shakspere lived amongst us once more, and that the force of scholarship, earnestness, and intelligence had broken through the mist that obscured the poetical drama from the vision of the playgoer.

Calais, situated amidst its desolate sand-hills, is an uncommonly dull seaport, but it contrives to make itself famous, and will be in time notorious for other things than being the resting-place of the author of the "Sentimental Journey." Particularly is Calais famed for accidents to temporary entertainments. A few years ago there was a panic and dreadful loss of life at a travelling show, and now a wandering menagerie has met with a similar disaster. The beast show had obtained great notoriety, and only the other day a popular actress had the hardihood to enter into the lions' den and recite some of Victor Hugo's verses at the top of her voice. She was mercifully spared. But the end of the menagerie was not far distant. It was crowded one night, when a sudden gust of wind blew off the top of the tent and extinguished the gas, and then followed an indescribable scene, consisting of screaming people, roaring animals, and the blowing of the hurricane outside. For a moment it was thought that the shock had loosened the cages and that the beasts were all over Calais seeking whom they might devour, but the only real danger was to a young woman who was pushed too near a cage, and got an awkward pat from a tiger.

The other day, in wandering out of the fog and gloom of this prison-house in London, I made for the northern heights. Everywhere it was said to smile except in town. Torquay beamed, Clovelly was never more inviting, Westgate-on-Sea was a paradise, and all the spring flowers were in bloom in the Isle of Wight. Unable to get so far, I sought Hampstead, and walked under a blue Italian sky over the heath, whilst a thick curtain of mist hung over London. But what have they done to Well Walk? An ugly railing deforms this shady avenue, the chalybeate spring trickles into a miserable gutter, despair seems to sit upon the old Assembly Rooms, and Keats's Bench is threatened with decay unless it obtains a coat of paint. Hampstead is the most charming suburb out of London, but how it has been modernised of late!

His Excellency Major-General Nicholson, Lieutenant-Governor, convened a special meeting of the States Assembly at St. Helier's, Jersey, on Tuesday, to appoint a Judge delegate until a successor may be appointed to the office of Bailiff. Mr. Francis Maret was unanimously chosen.

In consequence of the resignation by Captain White of the mastership of the Essex Union Hunt, it has been resolved to offer the use of hounds and kennels and a subscription of £1470 for the next season to a new master, who will undertake to hunt three days a week.

The beautiful estate of Hallyburton and Piteur, situated partly in Perth and partly in Forfarshire, belonging to the Marquis of Huntly, has been purchased by Mr. Grahame Menzies, distiller, of the Caledonian Distillery, Edinburgh. The property extends to nearly 6000 acres.

Letters and newspapers posted in London not later than the evening of the 20th inst., and in the provinces in time to reach Plymouth by the morning of Saturday the 21st inst., specially marked "per Orient Line steamer via Plymouth," will be forwarded by the steam-ship Sonata leaving Plymouth on the 21st inst. at the old rates of postage—namely, 6d. per oz. for letters and 1d. each for newspapers.

A warrant for the reorganisation of War Office clerks and writers in the manufacturing departments of the Army was issued yesterday week. It effects considerable modifications in the service, and one result will be to remove the whole of the clerks employed in the Royal Gun Factories at Woolwich. A great reduction in the number of clerks in the various establishments will be made, but there will be a general increase of salaries to those who remain.

By a majority of 853 over the number of votes obtained by the candidate who stood next to him on the poll, Mr. Clarke was yesterday week elected to represent the borough of Southwark. The votes given were—For Mr. Clarke (Conservative), 7683; for Mr. Dunn (Liberal), 6830; for Mr. Shipton (Radical), 799. There were over 7000 abstentions.—The polling at Barnstaple on the previous day resulted in the return of Lord Lymington, the Liberal candidate, by a majority of 96 over Sir Robert Carden, the Conservative candidate. The numbers were 817 and 721. After the declaration of the poll the Liberals held a congratulatory meeting at the music-hall, at which Lord Lymington, Mr. T. Cave, the sitting member, the Countess of Portsmouth, and her daughter, Lady Catherine Milnes Gaskell, spoke. Sir Robert Carden polled 99 more votes than the highest Conservative, Mr. Fleming, at the general election, and 46 more than Mr. Waddy. Lord Lymington polled 60 more than Mr. Cave, the highest Liberal, in 1874.

MUSIC.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

The present series of the performances of the Carl Rosa company here is being prolonged beyond the date recently announced for the closing night—Saturday last.

Since our last week's notice the proceedings have consisted of repetitions of operas recently commented on, until Thursday evening, when an English version of Verdi's "Aida" was to be produced, having been suddenly postponed from the previous Tuesday. Of the performance we must speak next week.

MR. HENRY LESLIE'S CHOIR.

The twenty-fifth and last season of the performances of this excellent choir opened on the 12th inst. with the first of four subscription concerts. After the National Anthem, Dr. Pole's effective setting of the hundredth psalm was finely sung by double choir; specialties in the choral portions of the programme having been the admirable rendering of Bach's sublime motet "Sing ye to the Lord" (also for double choir), and Mendelssohn's equally sublime forty-third psalm, "Judge me, O God," for eight-part choir. These had several times before been given by the choir, as had Schubert's beautiful twenty-third psalm for female voices, "The Lord is my Shepherd," but scarcely ever with more effect than on this occasion.

A new part-song—"Homeward"—by Mr. Leslie was greatly applauded, and had to be repeated. Other displays of fine choral singing were in a "Kyrie," by Leo, and Mr. A. R. Gaul's part-song, "The Better Land."

Madame Patey sang, with much effect, Mr. Leslie's sacred song, "I saw a golden sunbeam fall," and that by M. Gounod entitled "There is a green hill far away." Mr. Joseph Maas created a special impression by his fine delivery of Handel's air "Waft her, Angels," with its preliminary recitative. The air was encored. Mr. Maas also gave, with much success, the same composer's recitative "Comfort ye," and air "Every Valley;" and the tenor solo, "Refrain thy voice from weeping," from Mr. Arthur Sullivan's oratorio, "The Light of the World."

Mr. Leslie conducted, as usual, and Mr. J. G. Calcott and Mr. J. C. Ward presided, as heretofore, as accompanists, the first at the pianoforte, the other at the organ.

The second Subscription Concert, on March 5, will include a performance of Mendelssohn's "Antigone" music; and Beethoven's Violin Concerto by Herr Joachim. The dates of the third and fourth concerts are May 7 and June 2. An extra morning concert will be given on June 19, and, later, a grand festival concert will bring the organisation of the choir to a termination. This result is greatly to be regretted, as the performances of the choristers have been of rare excellence, and, unless the institution be revived or replaced by one of similar efficiency, London music will sustain a severe loss.

MR. KUHE'S BRIGHTON FESTIVAL.

We have already given an outline of the arrangements for Mr. Kuhe's tenth annual festival, which began on Tuesday evening, when the programme included the first performance of Mr. Henry Leslie's biblical pastoral "The First Christmas Morn," composed expressly for this occasion. The work begins with a melodious orchestral prelude entitled "Night in Bethlehem—Shepherds Watching their flocks." The vocal portion of the pastoral comprises four choruses and several pieces for solo voice. Among the numbers that produced the most effect were the instrumental prelude, the soprano recitative for the Angel, the chorus "Glory to God," and the contralto song of Mary. The soprano and contralto solo music was finely sung, respectively, by Miss M. Davies and Miss Orridge. Of the work generally we shall doubtless soon have an opportunity to speak further in reference to its London performance. The other portion of Tuesday evening's programme consisted of Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" ("Lobgesang"), in which Mr. Shakspere sustained the tenor solo part very effectively. Mr. Kuhe's Festival Choir sang the choruses, and an efficient orchestra was engaged, led by Mr. Val. Nicholson, and comprising many other eminent instrumentalists.

For Wednesday morning a classical concert was announced; for Thursday evening a performance of Rossini's "Moses in Egypt"; and for Saturday morning Sir M. Costa's "Naaman," conducted by himself. Of the details of these performances and of those of next week (when the festival will terminate) we must speak hereafter.

A fine performance of "The Messiah" was given on Ash Wednesday by the Royal Albert Hall Choral Society, conducted by Mr. Barnby. Madame Lemmens-Sherrington sang the soprano solos with much brightness of voice and style; and Madame Patey those for contralto with fervid expression. Mr. Sims Reeves and Signor Foli, having been unable to appear, were replaced by Mr. B. Lane and Mr. Thurley Beale, each of whom sang with much effect. Dr. Stainer presided at the organ, as usual. On March 4 the society will perform Dr. Ferdinand Hiller's "Song of Victory," the late Hermann Goetz's 137th Psalm ("By the Waters of Babylon"), and Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise."

Last Saturday's Crystal Palace Concert included a performance of Rubinstein's Dramatic Symphony, an ambitious and over-elaborated work of which we have more than once spoken in reference to its hearing here and elsewhere, the earliest occasion in this country having been at a Philharmonic Concert in 1876. The Symphony was given for the first time at the Crystal Palace on Saturday. That accomplished young pianist Miss Dora Schirmacher gave a highly artistic rendering of Beethoven's pianoforte concerto in G, besides playing two unaccompanied solos by Schumann and Chopin. Elizabeth's scene from "Tannhäuser" and two expressive songs by Maude White were well sung by Mrs. Osgood, the last-named pieces accompanied by the composer, who is the present holder of the Mendelssohn scholarship. Weber's overture to "Oberon" completed the programme.

This week's Monday Popular concert included the reappearance of Herr Joachim, whose return was hailed with the enthusiastic greeting which always attends the recurrence of this welcome event. The great violinist led Beethoven's quartet in E flat, op. 74, and that by Haydn in the same key, op. 64 (No. 2); and played as his solo Bach's prelude and fugue in G minor, from the first of the six sonatas for violin alone.

The long-continued applause which followed this admirable performance was acknowledged by playing another movement from the fifth sonata. Madlle. Junotha was also encored after her fine execution of Chopin's pianoforte "Polonaise" in F sharp minor, which she replaced by giving Mendelssohn's "Lied ohne Wörte" in C, from the sixth book. Mr. F. Boyle sang with much taste an air by Handel and a sonata by Gounod—each well accompanied by Mr. Zerbini.

The London Ballad Concerts were resumed this week—having been intermitted on account of Ash Wednesday. Most of the vocalists usually associated with these performances were again announced, including the reappearance of Madame Antoinette Sterling.

The second concert of the Philharmonic Society's sixty-eighth season took place on Thursday evening, when the

programme included a manuscript overture by Mr. Harold Thomas, entitled "Mountain, Lake, and Moorland;" Stern-dale Bennett's overture, "The Naiades;" and that by Weber to "Der Freischütz;" Herr Scharwenka's pianoforte concerto, played by himself; Beethoven's "Eroica" symphony; and other interesting features.

Mendelssohn's "Elijah" was given on Thursday evening, under the direction of Mr. W. Carter, and with the co-operation of his efficient choir, the solo singers announced having been Misses A. Williams and A. Romayne, Mesdames Antoinette Sterling and Touzeau, Messrs. P. Blandford, C. A. White, Conyers, and H. Winter, and Herr Henschel.

The late Mr. Henry Smart's dramatic cantata, "The Bride of Dunkerron," and Mr. J. G. Calcott's pastoral cantata, "The Golden Harvest," were announced for performance by the Grosvenor Choral Society (conducted by Mr. H. Baker) at the Grosvenor Hall, yesterday (Friday) evening.

An interesting concert was given at the Mansion House on Wednesday afternoon (under the superintendence of the deputation in relation to the National Training School for Music) by the pupils of the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind. The successful course of study pursued there was manifested by some meritorious vocal and instrumental performances, chiefly of classical music. In the former respect, Misses Dick, Campbell, Reece, and H. Carson, and Messrs. E. Schwier, A. Wilmet, and J. West, sang with much effect in various solo and concerted pieces; besides which several part-songs were very brightly rendered by the choir. In the instrumental department specially noticeable were the really excellent performances of Prince Alexander of Hesse and Master A. Hollins; the former of whom gave the "Andante" from Mendelssohn's violin concerto in a very superior style, and the latter two unaccompanied pianoforte solos with brilliant execution. Other effective pianoforte performances were contributed by Misses A. Stewart and G. Edmond, and Master W. F. Schwier. In several portions of the programme valuable aid was rendered by Mr. Reed (violin-cello), Mr. C. Deichmann (violin), and Mr. Frits Hartvigson (pianoforte), the two latter gentlemen being professors at the college; Mr. W. H. Cummings, who directs the vocal studies there, having assisted as pianoforte accompanist. Mr. F. J. Campbell, principal of the institution, acted, generally, as conductor, several of the pupils having accompanied some of the vocal pieces.

Mr. Ebenezer Prout's cantata "Hereward" will be performed by the Brixton Choral Society on Monday, March 1.

It is stated that Dr. Arthur Sullivan has been offered, and has accepted, the post of conductor of the Leeds Festival, to be held in October next. Dr. Sullivan is expected home from America in April, when he will at once enter on the preparation of the festival arrangements.

THEATRES.

A new original comedietta in one act, entitled "In the Orchard," written by Mr. G. R. Walker, was produced last Saturday at the Folly. It is a slight affair, and merely designed to play in the audience. The orchard, the scene of the story, is the property of Old Grimes, who is annoyed by the frequent robbery of his apples, and keeps two gamekeepers to protect it, besides placarding the place with notices of spring-guns, man-traps, and certain prosecution. Two young ladies—Patty Merlin (Miss Lilian Cavalier) and Lizzy Tait (Miss Roland Phillips)—stray within the interdicted precincts. Alarmed by the sound of footsteps, they seek to conceal themselves. Two intruders, Rody Reardon (Mr. E. D. Ward) and Jack Spurt (Mr. Joseph Carne), enter; and, after discussing matrimonial projects, Rody, who had been dining out, falls asleep at the foot of a tree, making his pillow of a shoe which Patty had left behind her. The merry girl takes advantage of the opportunity, and sends Lizzy after Jack Spurt, who had left the place, to take part in the sport she has projected. Jack is attired as a witch, and Lizzy undergoes disguise, while she herself, assuming the rôle of a fairy, bearing the branch of a tree for a wand, and decorating her brows with leaves for a garland, proceeds to awaken the slumbering youth. They recognise each other as former lovers. Arrested for trespassers, they soon come to a mutual understanding. The little piece was followed by "Our Clerks" and "Bardell v. Pickwick," Mr. Toole playing, of course, John Puddicombe and Sergeant Buzfuz.

The drama of "Drink" at the Princess's was superseded on Monday by the revival of Mr. Boucicault's "Streets of London." The realistic scenes were as favourably received as of old, and some of the characters, which are strong individual portraits, were cleverly sustained. We may distinguish the Badger of Mr. Charles Warner, the Mr. and Mrs. Puffy of Mr. T. P. Haynes and Miss Lavis, and the Dan of Miss Maggie Brennan. Crawley was also characteristically impersonated by Mr. John Beauchamp. The scene of the house on fire recalled the effect which it produced in 1864, when the play was originally represented.

At the Gaiety Mr. Burnand's burlesque of "Rob Roy" was revived on Monday, in company with Mr. Byron's "Blow for Blow." Both pieces were cordially received.

At St. George's Hall the new programme of Mr. and Mrs. German Reed merits attention. It consists of a new entertainment by Mr. Arthur Law, with music by Mr. Hamilton Clarke, entitled "Castle Botherem; or, an Irish Stew," followed by Mr. Corney Grain's musical sketch, "Our Table d'Hôte," and Mr. H. P. Stephens's "Back from India." The scene of the new piece is laid in Ireland, and the theme brings into prominent view the humours of Irish character in contrast with English prejudice. The occasion is rendered important by the engagement of Miss Hudspeth to fill the character of Mrs. Dabbler. The distinguished actress received a hearty welcome from the audience. The plot of the piece is of the slightest, but any deficiency in this respect is compensated by the force and skill with which the characters are delineated. Mr. Alfred Reed as Phil Doolan, the bailiff to the estate, leads on the conspiracy to avert the consequences of the threatened advent of the representatives of their late absentee landlord—in other words, to frighten and disgust their "English invaders," in which they succeed. Of these, Perks (Miss Lucy Williams) takes a prominent part in showing the contempt entertained for the Irish by the Saxon menial, who shrinks even from the slightest contact with the Hibernian peasant. Mr. Corney Grain, as Augustus Dabbler, gave a character portrait of a gentle Anglican youth who had been spoilt by family indulgence. There are many points in the dialogue which excite the laughter of the audience, by whom the piece was received with every mark of approbation.

The list of subscriptions to the "Ledger Testimonial" will close on Tuesday next, the 24th inst. The presentation will take place at an early date, under the presidency of Mr. Irving, at the Lyceum Theatre.

A telegram from Copenhagen announces that the regular mail packet service in the Great Belt has been re-established.

NEW BOOKS.

Properly to estimate the value of such books as *France Since the First Empire*, by James Macdonell, edited by his wife (Macmillan and Co.), is a very difficult task. The author, an overworked journalist, as nearly every journalist is, "loved France with an ardent love," and "longed to make his countrymen just to her, to make them understand her history and sympathise with her difficulties." To that end he "studied her history and her literature with ceaseless interest. Newspapers, essays, memoirs, histories were carefully read, and from them were volumes of notes taken." Unfortunately, he did not live to turn his notes to any great account; and the consequence is that the little volume presented to the public is not much more than a sample of what was intended. It appears that "one chapter only" has the amount of "finish" which the author desired that all his work should exhibit. And there are but nine short chapters, the last being partly the work of Mr. Meredith Townsend, who is believed to be one of the editors of the *Spectator*, and who has added some remarks confirmatory of the impression that the author's notes, but for the intervention of death, would have been expanded into a really important, though by no means exhaustive, "History of France since 1815." Fragmentary, however, as the production is, it is eminently readable, and it is certainly calculated to impart a great deal of instruction to ordinary readers whose knowledge of the French people and of the political parties into which France is divided might be euphemistically described as defective. It will do them good to read what is written touching "English interest in French politics," about the "political tendencies of the Catholic Church," and about the "clerical party," about the "revival of the Legitimist monarchy," about Legitimists, Orleanists, and Bonapartists. "The chapters devoted to the Republican party were to have been the most important in the book;" unhappily, they were "never even begun." The story of a futile attempt, the attempt "to revive a Legitimist monarchy amid the ruins left by the Revolution," is told with simple but impressive earnestness, with more impartiality than a writer of Republican leanings might be expected to show, with as much sympathy as humanity would demand. The volume may be read with interest by all, with pleasure by many, to considerable profit by some.

Seventeen decidedly interesting and instructive sketches, however meagre, form the contents of *Central Asian Portraits*: by Demetrius Charles Boulger (W. H. Allen and Co.); and an index is added for facility of reference. This is just the time when readers will be glad to have a brief, intelligible, readily-mastered account of Dost Mahomed, who begot Shere Ali, who begot Yakoob Khan, who is accused of having compassed the death of our gallant countryman Sir Louis Cavagnari; and the volume contains what is well worth reading concerning those three Amirs of Cabul. It is unnecessary to say how closely the careers of those princes are interwoven with the history of British India. Abdul Ghafur, late Akhond of Swat, who died early in 1878, and who has left it doubtful whether he was "at heart a foe or a friend of England," awakens probably but a very faint recollection; still his portrait certainly deserves a place in the collection, if only because his spiritual authority "often brought his pretensions into collision with the administrative regulations of our Government." The late Yakoob Beg, who is described as "a great man, born several centuries too late," and whose "acknowledgment of the suzerainty of the Sultan was rewarded in 1873 by the title of Emir," ruled in Kashgaria with remarkable independence, and appeals to our sympathies as the Central Asian potentate who "desired permission from Generals Kaufmann to send an embassy to St. Petersburg, to congratulate his brother, the Czar of Russia, on the marriage of his daughter with a prince of England, the Emir's good friend and ally." Among the personages whose portraits are given we find three Russians, whose exploits performed in Central Asia have entitled them to be included, Generals Kaufmann, Kolpakoffski, and Tcherniaeff. The first and the last are very well known by name to Englishmen, and the salient points of their characters are probably familiar enough in this country, though it is rather in connection with the affairs of Servia than of Central Asia that Tcherniaeff is remembered here. Of General Kolpakoffski, of whom it is said that he is the very man for the place "if the next Governor-General of Turkestan should be selected either for his military attainments or for his intimate acquaintance with the peoples and political circumstances of Central Asia," the English reader, it may be reasonably presumed, has heard comparatively little. He is reported to be "more amicably disposed towards England than either Kaufmann or any other of the Central Asian Generals;" but, as our author well remarks, "it is difficult to find in his public acts any proof of this confident assertion." Acts, however, are very often difficult to reconcile with professed or imputed intentions: little boys, for example, can never be brought to believe in the friendly motives of those who approach them with medicine in one hand and the birch in the other. However that may be, the portrait of Kolpakoffski is drawn in the most glowing colours. He is "a good soldier, an excellent administrator, a practised diplomatist, versed in the secrets of the Chinese as well as of the Central Asian policy of the Russian Government." His "untiring horsemanship" has earned for him the nickname of "Iron Seat," and "his private virtues are, by all accounts, not less estimable than his public qualities are worthy of laudation. Not only does he eclipse his comrades as a soldier and an administrator, but he is equally pre-eminent for the purity of his life and the spotlessness of his honour." The sketches may now be left to public appreciation with the parting reminder that the author of them is he who wrote "England and Russia in Central Asia," and "The Life of Yakoob Beg, the late Amir of Kashgar."

There is probably enough in a name to collect plenty of readers for *Notes of Travel*, consisting of extracts from the journals of Count Moltke (C. Kegan Paul and Co.), a volume for which the publishers have done a great deal in the way of paper, print, and generally neat and quietly attractive appearance. Nor are the contents of the book uninteresting in themselves; they comprise notes of a survey made in the neighbourhood of Rome and remarks suggested thereby some five and thirty years ago, observations founded upon what came within the ken of a very quick eye during a flying visit paid to Spain about the same time, and a description of occurrences which took place some ten years later in the course of a short sojourn at Paris under the roof of Napoleon III. It is reasonable to suppose that this last section of the work will have most attraction for the majority of readers: Moltke at the Imperial Court of France, in attendance upon the present Crown Prince of Prussia and of the German Empire, in the heyday of the Emperor Napoleon and the Empress Eugénie, is a very striking picture, especially when delineated by the hand of Moltke himself. The notes relating to Rome are learned and to a certain extent scientific, so that they require to be read in the spirit of a student; those concerning Spain and the French Court are very little more than the mere gossip with which all travellers are wont to fill their letters. But then there are, of course,

travellers and travellers, and the now illustrious Count Moltke, as "aide-de-camp in personal attendance on H.R.H. Prince Frederick William," had opportunities of an extraordinary kind. The Count testifies that "the well-known portraits of the Emperor and Empress (of the French) are very like;" but he adds that they "leave something to be supplied by an eye-witness." He pronounces the Empress "charming from her beauty and elegance," a mistress of the art of dressing, with a tendency to talk "much and eagerly, showing greater animation than is usual in one of such high rank." Of the Emperor Napoleon he says: "his bearing in society is not outwardly impressive, and there is a certain constraint in his conversation. He is an Emperor, not a King." But, nevertheless, "it is only in the saddle that he looks like an Emperor." It seems sheer mockery to read of such matters now, and a very sad mockery to read of the gorgeous state in which the "Imperial infant," who is described as "a fine little fellow," drove out for an airing. And, by the light of subsequent events, we see a strange, prophetic significance in the great strategist's simple remark: "It was melancholy to find ourselves among a German-speaking people, who are, notwithstanding, good Frenchmen." Indeed, the notes abound with little touches which suggest all sorts of subjects for reflection, and such notes are more interesting than the most ingenious romance.

The seventeenth annual edition of "The Statesman's Year-Book," compiled by Mr. Frederick Martin, is published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co. It contains, in the first place, a calendar of days and catalogue of events of the past year; then, statistical tables of population and commerce, for Europe and for the United Kingdom; but the main substance of the book consists of exact particulars, for each State or nation throughout the world, of its reigning dynasty, constitution, revenue, army and navy, diplomatic representatives, population, trade, railways, post-office, telegraphs, weights and measures, church and school system. The States of America, Asia, Africa, and Australasia, including India and our Colonies, find place in this enumeration. It is a volume that should be in the hands of every politician, and every newspaper-reader would do well to consult it sometimes.

Another curiosity of literary antiquity has been published by Mr. Elliott Stock, of Paternoster-row. It is a facsimile of the ancient manuscript of the celebrated devotional treatise, "De Imitatione Christi," ascribed to Thomas Hämerlein of Kempen, usually called Thomas à Kempis, a monk of the Augustinian Convent of Mount St. Agnes, near Zwolle, in the Netherlands. He died there in 1471, at the age of ninety-two, having been an inmate of the same monastery seventy years. The manuscript, written by his own hand, and bearing date 1441, is preserved in the Royal Library at Brussels. The facsimile is as exact as photography and careful engraving can make it, and is printed on rough old-looking paper. It is not every reader of Latin who can easily decipher a manuscript of this character, with all its marks of abbreviation. But the little volume, which is prettily and appropriately bound in an antique style, is worthy of acceptance in a scholar's library, and its price is very small. The introductory notice is written by Dr. C. Ruelens, Keeper of the Brussels Royal Library.

Messrs. Ward, Lock, and Co. have issued a new edition of "Mrs. Beeton's Household Management," enlarged by the addition of 150 pages of new recipes, and instructions in cookery and the service of the table. Many full-page wood engravings have also been added, and an entirely new series of coloured cookery plates introduced.

Chung-How, the late Chinese Minister to Russia, who signed the treaty ceding a part of Kuldja to that Power, is said to have been disgraced by the Imperial Government.

During the severe gales which visited our coasts at the beginning of this week good service was, as usual, performed by the life-boats of the National Life-Boat Institution.

A new cattle market, which has been completed by the Local Board of Health, at a cost of £13,000, has been opened at Chelmsford. Accommodation is provided for 1000 head of cattle and 1200 sheep.

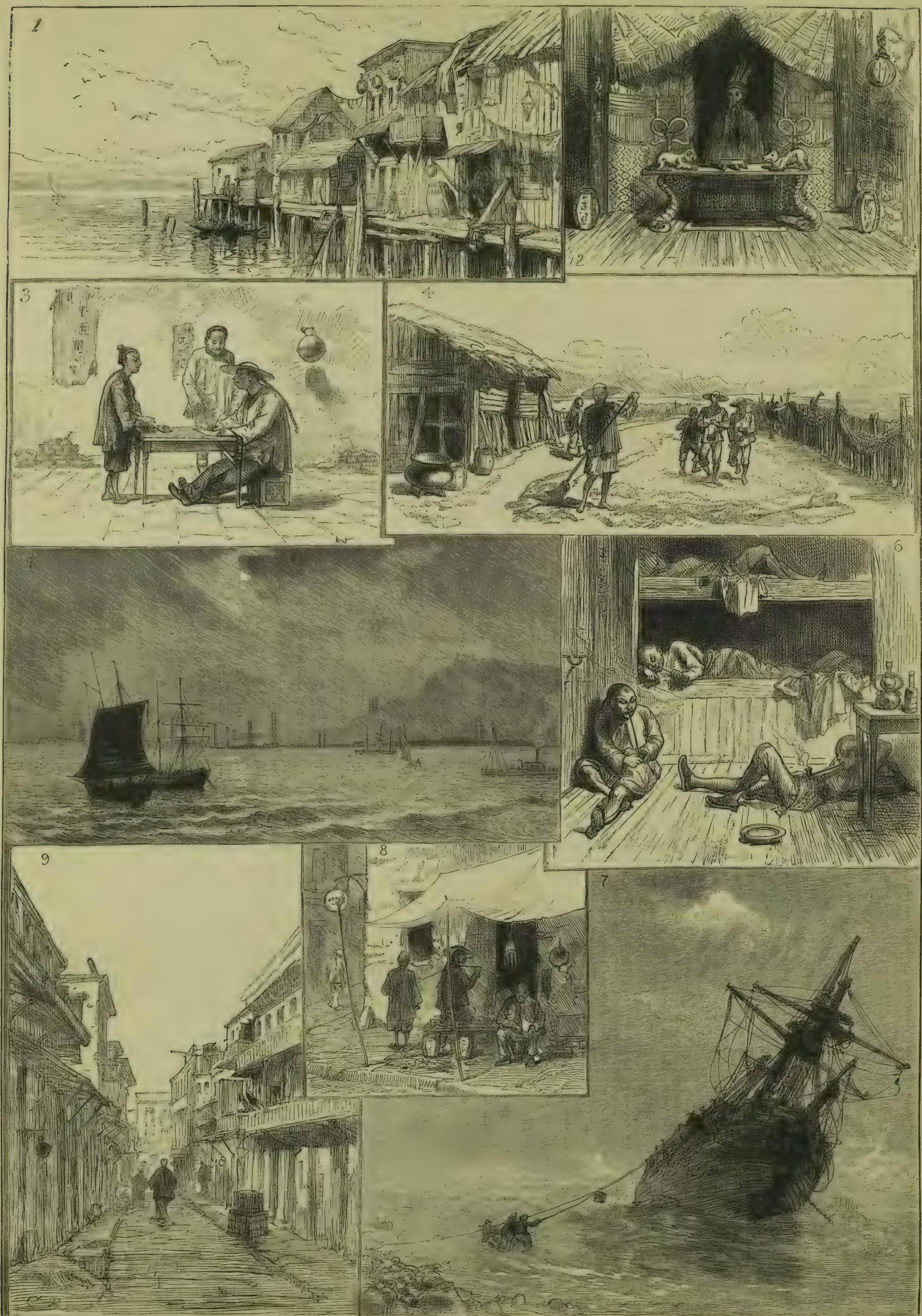
A Board of Trade inquiry at Whitehaven into the circumstances of the loss of the *Zingara*, of Aberystwith, which stranded near St. Bees on Jan. 24, has resulted in the certificate of Captain Jones being suspended for three months.

A show of dogs and poultry has been held at Margate this week. At the former there were nearly 450 entries, whilst at the latter there were about 600. Mr. Shirley, M.P., the Rev. J. W. Mellor, and Mr. Dalziel, and Messrs. W. B. Tegetmeier, F. Esquillat, and G. Belletti were the judges.

The Duke of Cambridge on Tuesday presented the commissions and prizes to which gentlemen cadets at the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich had become entitled. In addressing them at the close of the presentation he warned them that they had difficulties as well as honours in their path. This was an age of science and progress, when general officers, far advanced in their profession, were obliged to move with rapid strides to keep pace with it. Young officers just entering upon their duties would do well to bear this in mind. General Sir John Adye, in his report as governor, states that the general conduct, tone, and bearing of the gentlemen cadets during the past term had been satisfactory, notwithstanding the fact that two cases of misconduct had to be punished by periods of "rustication."

There were 2701 births and 2495 deaths registered in London last week. Allowing for increase of population, the births exceeded by 41, and the deaths by 730, the average numbers in the corresponding weeks of the last ten years. The deaths included 12 from smallpox, 23 from measles, 56 from scarlet fever, 13 from diphtheria, 197 from whooping-cough, 19 from different forms of fever, and 19 from diarrhoea: thus to the seven principal diseases of the zymotic class 339 deaths were referred, against 341 and 401 in the two preceding weeks. These 339 deaths were 98 above the corrected average number from the same diseases. In Greater London 3286 births and 2948 deaths were registered. The duration of registered bright sunshine in the week was 14·0 hours (against 15·1 hours at Glynde-place (Lewes), the sun being above the horizon during 67·9 hours).

The annual meeting of the News-vendors' Benevolent and Provident Institution was held on Tuesday at the office of the Institution, in Martin's-lane, Cannon-street. The committee reported that a considerable addition had been made to the invested capital during the past year, and they were in the pleasing position of being able to recommend that all the applicants, four in number, be made pensioners of the society. There was a falling-off in the number of subscribers, but through the exertions of one of the members the receipts for the year had been raised to a very satisfactory sum. The total receipts were £1304, and the expenditure £724, and £500 of the balance had been invested. The capital sum of their investments was £7220, and they would now be paying £320 a year in annuities. On the motion of the chairman, Mr. A. H. Hill, the report was adopted, and it was resolved not to put the candidates for pensions to the expense of a ballot.



1. Chinese dwellings on the water.
2. A joss-house, or Chinese temple.
3. A street scrivener, or letter-writer.

4. Pulverizing shrimps, by treading, for exportation.
5. Fishing-boats, by moonlight.
6. Opium-smokers.

7. Chinamen with a wrecked barque.
8. In the Chinese market-place.
9. Street in the Chinese quarter.

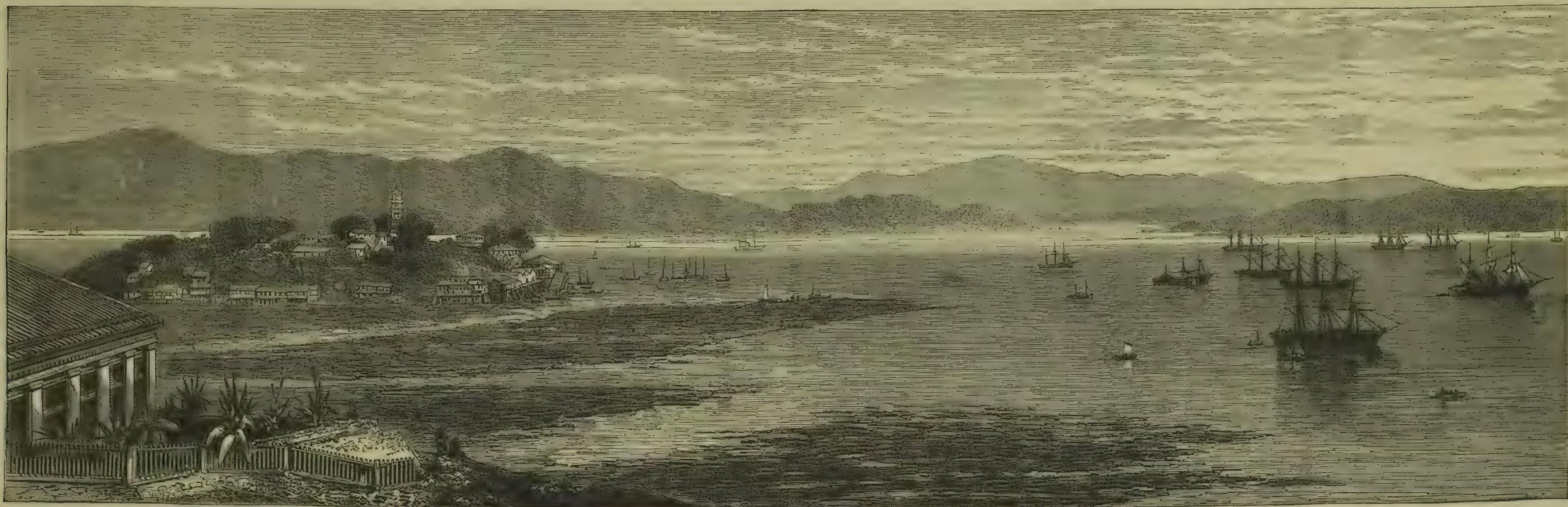
THE CHINESE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

We are this week informed that the Legislative Assembly of the State of California has passed a law, which had already passed the Senate, forbidding the employment of Chinese labourers in the works carried on by public companies or corporations. The Governor of the State has approved the bill. This is probably a step towards more stringent measures for the exclusion, or at least the compulsory diminution, of that race of Asiatic immigrants, who form a considerable part of the industrial population. They have long been obnoxious to the lower class of Americans and Irish in the city of San Francisco, and in some of the mining districts; but their services have been found useful to all large employers. The Chinaman is generally sober, industrious, obedient, and docile; he soon learns a little colloquial English, attending school

for that purpose, but never gives up his peculiar habits, and has no idea of becoming an American citizen. He comes over to California in quest of gain, not as a settler, but with the fixed intention of returning to China when he has earned and saved a certain sum of money; and if he dies in the strange land his body is carefully sent back to be interred in China. Few Chinese women are brought over, and these only of the lowest class and character. The inhabitants of "China Town," their own separate quarter of San Francisco, form a self-governing community, and have their secret tribunals dealing with all debts and offences among them, sometimes even inflicting sentence of death. When obliged to appear in the State courts of justice, they seem to feel little respect for the oath usually taken by witnesses; for it is reported that a Chinese witness, being once asked by the Judge if he knew what was expected of him when sworn, replied, "Yes, me

know that; me lie all same Melican man"—the same as an American, which shows rather a sad estimate of social morals. In their own quarter of the city, these people swarm like ants, dwelling in countless wretched dens and cells, without light or air, horribly dirty, and pervaded by an unwholesome smell. Those who fall sick, or die, are attended to by the Chinese themselves. They keep the Chinese dress, for the most part, except when any article of European attire, such as an old pair of shoes, can be got for nothing; but they soon take to using a spoon instead of chopsticks. Their frugality is marvellous; it is stated that the Pacific Mail Steam-Ship Company allows but five cents or twopence halfpenny a day for the food of each Chinese passenger, and with this allowance they are quite content. They seek work for hire in every way they can, under-bidding all white labourers, mechanics, and artisans; they are skilful fishermen, evading the fishery laws; as gold and silver miners,

they make good profit out of the old claims that other miners have abandoned; they make and sell cigars, into which they put all kinds of "rot;" and they are very shrewd in smuggling opium. In washing and scrubbing, and other household work, they are much employed in town; they labour at the docks and quays, on the railroads, and in agriculture, road-making, and building operations. Altogether, though their company is disagreeable to the American citizens, they are quite able to take care of themselves, and never fall into pauperism. They are sometimes bullied and oppressed by the turbulent rowdies or "hoodlums" of San Francisco; and are forced, as being aliens, to pay a heavy poll-tax. We present a few Sketches, drawn by Mr. T. A. Harrison, of Chinese life and manners in California, more especially in that city. The problem of regulating the admission and residence of these people in our own Australian Colonies has likewise become a serious matter of consideration.



PAGODA ANCHORAGE, FOOCHOO, CHINA.

THE PORT OF FOOCHOO.

One of the principal Chinese ports opened to British and other foreign trade is Foochoo, the capital city of the Fu-Kien province, which is situated north of Quang-Tung, or Canton, as the name is commonly written by Europeans. The city is about thirty-four miles inland, up the river Min, but stands three miles from the banks of the river. The anchorage for ships is ten miles lower down, at Lo-Sing Island, also called Pagoda Island, from a small building of that class upon the isle, which is the subject of our Illustration. There is a dock, of European construction, opposite the island. Above this place only vessels of light draught can ascend the river, its navigation being much impeded by shoals, which were increased during the war of 1841 between China and Great Britain by a dam constructed to prevent our gun-boats passing up to Foochoo. Passengers and goods

are conveyed beyond the anchorage in native boats. There are two larger pagodas above, with a great Buddhist monastery, on the Kushan or Drum Mountain, half-way between the anchorage and the city. The foreign "hongs" or mercantile wharves and warehouses, with the residences of the Consuls, merchants, and missionaries, are on the banks of the river, a short distance from the walled Chinese city; and there is a long bridge, of ancient but solid stone masonry, crossing two arms of the river at that place, with a small island between, Chung-Chow, inhabited by a dense native population. The city itself contains about half a million of people, with a considerable amount of trade and industry; they have manufactures of bronze, lacquer-ware, porcelain, stone carving, and various fancy work, artificial flowers of rice-paper, birds made of coloured charcoal, and toy-models cut out of soft soapstone. Fisheries in the river, by the employment of cormorants to catch the fish, yield subsistence to a numerous class of people at Foochoo.

The export of tea and the import of opium and cotton goods furnish occupation to foreign commerce, two thirds of which belongs to England. There is regular communication by steamers with the ports of Amoy, Swatow, and Hong-Kong. The city of Foochoo is worth visiting, and has an agreeable aspect, from the abundant groves and gardens around its temples and official mansions, which are situated on hills within the inclosure of the city walls. The Black Rock hill, upon which are the offices of the British Consulate, rises 300 ft. in height. The most remarkable of the temples is that dedicated to the Goddess of Heaven, which is much frequented by the seafaring class of Chinese, and is richly adorned with their votive offerings. Among the Christian missions at Foochoo those of the Roman Catholics are said to have been most successful, but the American Methodists have also had great encouragement in this neighbourhood. The most recent letters from China give a satisfactory account of the prospects of trade.

TESTING CHAIN CABLES.

The large Engraving that occupies the two middle pages of this Number presents to view a striking scene in the great naval arsenal of Chatham Dockyard. It is the operation of testing the strength of chain cables, upon which may depend the safety of a noble ship at anchor, and the lives of her officers and crew. The strain to which each cable is subjected in the dockyard, before it may be issued for service, is far greater than would be expected to result from the drift of sea currents or stress of weather in any anchorage. The force here applied is that of a powerful hydraulic machine, working in an engine-room situated to the right hand of the apartment shown in our Engraving. Within the large horizontal cylinder of iron, which forms a conspicuous part of this apparatus, is a piston, one end of which, armed with disks resembling the buffers of a railway carriage, is seen protruding



NECK AND NECKI

FROM A DRAWING BY J. STURGEON

from the cylinder. This piston is drawn to and fro by the force of the hydraulic engine. The cable has one end attached to a fixed mooring, and the other end made fast to the piston; after which, during the actual testing process, the room is cleared of men, to prevent anyone being killed or wounded, as might be likely to happen, by the fragments of the cable, if it breaks, flying about the place. The intended amount of force is then applied by the hydraulic engine, and is accurately noted by means of gauges, from which the exact strength of the cable to resist tension may be calculated with scientific precision. When the testing operation is over, the men come back with the officers who have to inspect the cable; and they begin "slacking off," which is that stage of the business represented in our Illustration. Two or three men are engaged in reversing a wheel, the axle of which, by cog-work acting upon a horizontal rack, gradually releases the end of the cable at the extremity of the piston; and as the links of the chain become loosened from one another, they are taken up with crooks held by the men, four or five of them, who are standing over the cable beyond. The links are then separately examined, to see if they have any crack or flaw, or have been in any degree bent or twisted by the strain. Many pieces of cable, which have snapped or otherwise given way, are seen against the wall to the left hand in our Illustration. In the background, near the roof, is a portion of the machinery erected for the testing of anchors, and some parts of these are to be seen there.

NOVELS.

Important as it is that a lady-novelist's pet, who is pretty sure to be the most colourless man in the whole novel, should be married to the woman he loves and should live happily ever after, it sometimes happens, as in *The Sweet Spring Time*: by Katherine S. Macquoid (Hurst and Blackett), that the object is attained at a sacrifice so great as to excite the reader's resentment and indignation. Maurice Penruddock and Kitty Ralston might have perished, and no reader would have lamented; but every reader will feel a sense of injury at the measure meted out to Martha Burridge. No doubt the relentless manner in which the novelist persecutes poor Martha to the bitter end is intended to, and actually does, make her nobility of character more impressive, and give intensity to the pathos of her story; but the feelings of readers are not always to be appeased by considerations of artistic treatment. The novel is most appropriately described as "a love-story;" for seldom, if ever, before were so much talk about love and marriage, so many "offers" and "refusals," and so various a collection of those cross purposes and entanglements which are more or less inevitable in all affairs of the heart, to be found, in proportion to the number of characters and controlling incidents, within the compass of three volumes. The principal personages are three; Oliver and Martha Burridge, brother and sister, of the middle class and the lower middle, and Maurice Penruddock, a comparative aristocrat, with a titled lady for his mother. The three, at the opening of the tale, are children who have struck up a friendship, and this friendship is never completely broken off to the last. Oliver is a genius, with a turn for mechanics, and as disagreeable, though not so ill-favoured, weakly, and unpractical as such gifted beings generally are in fiction: indeed, he is handsome, stalwart, and regardful of the main chance. Martha is a curiously sly girl, given to twisting her fingers, to speaking harshly and coldly, or vehemently and passionately, in quick succession, and to making great play with her features. She, in fact, hides an ardent nature, full of inextinguishable fire, beneath a generally impulsive exterior. She is tall, pale, green of eye, golden red of hair, sure to grow, as she does, into a woman of strange but unquestionable beauty. Maurice is a youth of somewhat distinguished appearance and of unexceptionable disposition, both which characteristics he preserves to, and after, the period of his development into what may be best described as "a nice young man," who keeps his temper under very trying circumstances, but shows such batlike blindness as regards the feelings cherished towards him by Martha that few readers will be able to imitate his self-control. It is just possible, however, that the novelist is true to the life in her drawing; that Maurice, with his air of distinction to recommend him externally, and with his tendency to accept things, whether friendship or a "refusal," as they appear, is the very man for whom two charming young women would break their hearts, and who would, with almost unconscious patronage, treat one of these young women as an elder brother, being at the same time a very superior person, might treat a younger sister, somewhat languidly acknowledging her cleverness and good looks and excellent qualities, but convinced that between him and her there is a great gulf fixed. For Maurice, however, Martha, from the very first, feels a deep, fervent, undying passion, and it is her bane. She lets "concealment like a worm i' the bad prey on her damask cheek," and what she does and what she suffers is described by the novelist most pathetically and sympathetically. To complicate matters, Maurice, regardless of the lovely, noble, suffering Martha, whose idol, love only knows how or why, he is, falls a victim, almost at first sight, to the charms of a certain Miss Ralston, who has taken an interest, mistaken for an indication of some warmer feeling, in his friend Oliver, the gifted engineer, rising steadily to fame and moderate riches. Oliver proposes and is refused, whilst Maurice, knowing the state of his friend's heart, stands aside, with less magnanimity, perhaps, than caution, until the result of the proposal is revealed. Then Maurice proposes, and is, strange to say, as it seems to him, refused; strange, because Oliver has already tried in vain to quarrel with him, on the ground that Miss Ralston's first refusal was caused by a preference not, to all appearances, borne out by her second. Appearances, however, are not always to be trusted, as a perusal of the novel will show. The perusal may lead practical readers to think that "they do these things better in France," where marriages are arranged first and the love is expected to come afterwards; but it will no doubt rejoice the hearts of the truly romantic readers, who will honour Martha as one of the sweetest and most heroic martyrs ever sacrificed upon the altar of true love. The novel is, of course, well written; and it abounds in those minute details, whether the pictures drawn be of animate or inanimate objects, upon which the feminine mind is believed to dwell with especial interest. Of what is commonly called "action" there is not a great deal. Occurrences of this kind are almost entirely limited to a "strike" in which the gifted engineer is nearly killed with a stone, and to a scene in which a horrid little boy is, perhaps injudiciously, rescued from drowning.

Love, through whose influence, according to writers of amatory verses, the world goes round, plays a rare game of see-saw in the pages of the three volumes entitled *Orlando*, by Clementina Black (Smith, Elder, and Co.), a novel written with no little grace, and with many indications of literary culture and a well-stored memory, as well as of an appreciative spirit and a sympathetic nature. It is essentially a quiet, contemplative story, without any stirring incidents, perilous adventures, striking actions, or exciting descriptions. The plot is extremely simple, such as may be described in a few words: there are two buckets at a well, and when one is up, the other is down.

That, briefly put, is all. Orlando is the hero, Elizabeth is the heroine; when he would like her to accept him, she has a previous engagement, and when, after some years, she is open to an offer, he is, so far as his heart and inclinations are concerned, in a very similar position to that in which she had been. But then he has not actually declared his second passion, so that, being of a heroic disposition, and seeing that he is expected to justify the saying about returning always to one's first love, he requests the original lady of his affections to make him happy. He prefers his request, however, in a manner noticeably devoid of ardour, and in terms which would lead even a less keen-sighted person than a woman who has really loved to suspect that he is making some sort of sacrifice on her account, and that he is actuated by a desire rather of making her happy than of being made happy by her. And, if there were any doubt about it, there is, of course, a kind but meddlesome friend at hand to clear away all ambiguity, so that the heroine cannot console herself with the slightest pretence of ignorance. Hence, both hero and heroine having noble souls, there arises a struggle as to which of the twain shall display the greater magnanimity. It may be, also, that the heroine is a little piqued, and in her secret heart harbours a feeling of resentment, such as in real life might drive a genuine woman either to manoeuvre until her former lover became involved in some inextricable difficulty or to marry him out of sheer spite in order to confound her rival, whom she would be sure to regard as "an artful minx." Nothing so mean and lifelike, however, is allowed to interfere with the heroic course of the novel, which is singularly pure, wholesome, and elevated—so far as simplicity and elevation are compatible—in tone. Whether the hero's conduct, in the very difficult position in which he is placed, will meet with general approval or not is a question not to be decided offhand. Nor shall it be stated here what was the result of the struggle in which the hero and heroine competed for the prize of magnanimity: the book shall be left to unfold that secret. Some very pleasant reading will be the reward of all who consult the work, though it is possible that they may have little or no patience with the Quixotic constancy of the heroine in holding herself bound to the very end by an engagement contracted in a hurry with a scoundrel.

There is enough of the genial Irish spirit in *Christy Carew*, by the author of "The Hon. Miss Ferrard" (Richard Bentley and Son), to carry a reader comfortably through the three volumes, if the privilege of skipping be exercised with discretion. Rattle and clatter, worthy of an Irish household, are the chief characteristics of the novel; and the story is told in a rambling, bewildering fashion, which produces much the same effect as would be produced by an elaborate and complicated plot. Roman Catholics and Protestants tilt across the pages with the suddenness and irregularity of meteoric bodies; but, though religious differences are thus introduced, the novel cannot be charged with having a mainly theological or polemical colour. To say what the story is about is by no means easy; but it may be safely assumed that Christy, or Christina, Carew, who gives a title to the book, is intended to be the heroine. She has a step-mother, who creates mischief by the old, mean trick of withholding a letter; and that mischief must be regarded as the spoke in the heroine's wheel. There is an under-heroine, Christy's lovely bosom friend; and her fate, as often happens in the case of under-heroines, is more interesting and very much more tragic than Christy's own. Eyes, especially Christy's, are employed to wonderful effect from the beginning to the end of the story. Hers are brown, almond-shaped, with "orange flecks" which, under the influence of emotion, seem to "expand into ardent flames;" and, oddly enough, her true lover has "flecks of orange colour" in his "tawny grey eyes," so that, if there be such a science as ophthalmology, there may be strictly scientific reasons for the attraction which the possessors of the eyes exercised one upon the other. Not that Christy was devoid of other attractive properties; she was certainly "something below the middle height," but that, in the opinion of many a clever man, may of itself be a recommendation; she "had a handsome face," and, if "the forehead was perhaps a little too low," yet "her thick brown hair curled so prettily round it that the fault was hardly perceptible;" moreover, "she was trimly built and straight, and her feet and hands were, what they very frequently are not with undersized people, exactly in proportion to her height;" and, lastly, she was emphatically a nice girl, a little too free perhaps both in her actions and her language, but a very pleasant mixture, on the whole, of forwardness and backwardness, ardour and indolence, dejection and high spirits. The under-heroine, as we are told, "on the contrary, was a little above the middle height, and, to see her standing beside her friend, one would say she was a really tall girl. She was slender and graceful, which, if anything, added to her stature. Her features were not so firmly cut and proportioned as Christy's, but they were infinitely more delicate and expressive, and her full blue eyes had a charming sweetness. Her complexion was transparently clear, and her long slender fingers were of a whiteness that filled Miss Carew with an envy that she never hesitated to openly express." Miss Carew, however, had the advantage as regards force of character. On these two girls, for the most part, devolves the task of entertaining the reader with their love-affairs, a task which they perform in different styles, but with about equal success. On the part of the under-heroine the entertainment is of a somewhat lugubrious kind: what with priests, of whom one, however, is an excellent and excellently drawn character, what with the harsh laws of Mother Church, what with an austere father, who is a Lord Mayor, and what with a handsome captain, who is not all that a constant lover should be, she has a sad time of it. Christy, who is of a more robust nature, meets with better fortune. The most powerful portion of the book is towards the close, where an account is given of what took place at a "fateful picnic," whereat a little girl is drowned; this painful episode is described with poetical impressiveness. If only Lanty, instead of Elsie, or if Lanty and Minna together, instead of Elsie, had been drowned, the reader would probably feel avenged for the suffering inflicted by those children.

The purport of a story is not very often so distinctly indicated by the title as in the case of *Donna Quixote*, by Justin McCarthy (Chatto and Windus), in three volumes, having the advantage or disadvantage, according to opinion, of several illustrations. It is to all intents and purposes a narrative showing how an exceedingly beautiful and worthy young woman tried to carry out some Quixotic ideas with not much more success than is foreshadowed by the title of the novel. She begins her career, so far as the tale is concerned, with a singular incident worthy of the character assigned to her: she marries, on his death-bed, a young man whom she cannot love in the way in which he would have liked her to love him, but whom she loves so far as to oblige him in his last little fancy for calling her wife before he dies, and who leaves her all his very considerable wealth. Her Quixotism asserts itself at once, although the form of its assertion does not reveal itself until some time afterwards: she secretly dedicates a room, as a sort of shrine, to the memory and image of her dead husband, and there she determines, as it appears when a second offer of marriage is made to her, to deposit her heart and to

bury the marriageable portion of her being. That determination, of course, lasts only until the right man declares himself, as he accordingly does when the hour has arrived. In fact, the general result of her many Quixotic schemes was not such as to make her persevere, even before the arrival of "the man and the hour." By the middle of the second volume, "she was beginning to have a disheartening and tormenting doubt as to the virtue of acting always on generous impulses. She was having it forced upon her that the efforts she loved to make for people's good were for the most part ending in miserable failure." It is not surprising, then, if, before many more pages are over, she is aware that, should only the proper person speak out, her resolution of enduring widowhood might be easily overcome. When the word is duly uttered, and she is on the point of becoming a wife in reality as well as in name, obstacles arise from an unexpected quarter. This is the most amusing part of the book, perhaps, but it is at the same time the weakest. For, when we have already the author's unquestionable authority for believing that a certain person is the very man he declares himself to be, it is quite useless for a vulgar, spiteful woman, however good may be the sport she affords, to occupy many pages in endeavouring, with or without accomplices, to shatter our belief and impress upon us that he is somebody else. The author's distinct statement prevents any feeling of anxiety touching the success of Paulina's clumsy invention; a far less generous and unsuspecting nature than that of Gabrielle, who could not possibly reconcile Paulina's previous behaviour with her subsequent absurd charge, would have laughed at such brazen pretence. The book is full of clever, pleasant, amusing, and powerful sketches and descriptions; and for them it must be read, not for the dexterous construction of a plot.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

Professor Tyndall lectured at the Working Men's College, Great Ormond-street, last Saturday evening, on "Electricity." The chair was taken by the principal, Mr. T. Hughes, Q.C.

The City Commissioners of Sewers determined at their meeting on Tuesday to try the system of electric alarm posts or boxes in the city to give warning in case of fire.

The annual ball of the Royal London Yacht Club took place yesterday week at Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's, and the assemblage was very numerous and brilliant.

Mr. John Hayes, C.E., of 27, Leadenhall-street, E.C., has been appointed agent of the Buenos Ayres Exhibition in England. At his office plans of the exhibition buildings and ground may be inspected.

At yesterday week's sitting of the Metropolitan Board of Works the application of the School Board for London for an advance of £250,000 for providing or enlarging school-houses was complied with.

The twentieth annual session of the Associated Chambers of Commerce opened on Tuesday at the Westminster Palace Hotel, under the presidency of Mr. S. Lloyd, M.P. Various subjects connected with commercial matters were discussed.

Sir David Salomons (the *Morning Post* says) has sent in his resignation to the Reform and City Liberal Clubs, as he has changed his political views, and intends supporting the Conservative party in future.

In the absence of the Lord Mayor, Mr. Alderman Cotton on Tuesday distributed prizes to children in the National Refuges for Homeless and Destitute Children. Lord Shaftesbury subsequently addressed the assembly.

A wardnote of the inhabitants of the Ward of Aldersgate was held on Monday for the purpose of electing a gentleman to represent the ward in the Court of Common Council in the room of Mr. H. Holland, deceased. Mr. A. J. Altman was appointed to fill the vacancy, there being no opposition.

It is announced that Dean Stanley has informed the memorialists who have protested against the erection of a monument to Prince Louis Napoleon in Westminster Abbey that the project is irrevocably determined on, though it is not likely to be immediately carried into effect.

At a meeting of the Royal Botanic Society, held at the gardens, Regent's Park, last Saturday, the donations announced included seeds of interesting plants from equatorial Africa, presented by Dr. Kirk and Mr. Gerald Waller. The Earl of Derby has given one hundred guineas to the society.

Dr. B. W. Richardson will preside at a lecture by C. Prounds, Esq., on the Social, Domestic, and Sanitary Habits, &c., of the People of "Old Japan," at the hall of the Society of Arts, Adelphi, next Thursday, at 4. A number of native drawings, &c., illustrating the subject will be exhibited.

Mr. R. W. Dale, of Birmingham, gave his second lecture on the Rise of Evangelical Nonconformity, at the Union Chapel, Islington, on Tuesday evening, under the presidency of Mr. Hugh Mason, remarking that the growing strength of sacerdotalism in the English Church ought to supply the chief reason for agitating for disestablishment.

A ball in aid of the Widows' Home Asylum, which is situated in Great Prescott-street, Goodman's-fields, in the midst of one of the poorest districts of the metropolis, was held on Tuesday at the Freemasons' Tavern. The charity was established in 1813, for the purpose of clothing, maintaining, and providing an asylum for aged widows of the Jewish faith.

The weekly return of metropolitan pauperism shows that the total number of paupers on the last day of the first week in February was 101,102, of whom 48,588 were in workhouses, and 52,514 received outdoor relief. Compared with the corresponding weeks in the years 1879, 1878, and 1877, these figures show an increase of 8317, 14,386, and 14,971 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 634, of whom 511 were men, 113 women, and 10 children under sixteen.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, M.P., was present yesterday week at a luncheon given to Cape merchants on board Messrs. Donald Currie and Co.'s new Royal Mail steamer *Grancully Castle*, in the East India Docks. In proposing "Prosperity to South Africa," the Colonial Secretary pointed out that it was to the interest of the colonists that they should follow the footsteps of the Dominion of Canada in the path of self-government and self-defence, so far as their ability extended. There had been readiness shown already in South Africa in that matter—a desire to move forward in that path which presaged success and prosperity in the future.

The medals, prizes, and certificates gained by the successful students of the Lambeth School of Art at the late examinations were distributed on Tuesday evening by Canon Gregory, who occupied the chair, supported by the Rev. Mr. Herbert and Mr. H. S. Marks, R.A. The most important prizes given were the Cresy prize of 1879, awarded to Mr. Cherubino Canobbio; while in the national competition the gold medal was won by Mr. Stanley Berkeley for drawing from the life, and a silver medal by Miss Edith Savill, for the same. In addressing the students at the close of the ceremony, Mr. Marks confined his remarks chiefly to the subject of drawing.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

It cannot be said that the Kempton Park programme of last week possessed any feature of very special interest; still, racing men had been so long "frozen out" that they would have mustered strongly to witness the veriest plating; and the presence of the Prince of Wales proved an additional attraction on each day. Sign Manual was certainly the "bright particular star" of the meeting, as on the first day he won a hurdle-race, after a great finish with Gunlock, and followed up this success by carrying off the chief prize on the Wednesday, after another tremendous struggle with Bird of Prey, whom he only beat by a head. Too much praise cannot be given to Jones, who rode him on both occasions. During his flat-racing career Sign Manual was the prince of "gay deceivers," as he was heavily backed for handicap after handicap, and invariably disappointed his followers; but, like many another rogue, he seems to take very kindly to the illegitimate business. It is rather curious that he is a cast-off from Captain Machell's stable, as that gentleman seldom parts with a horse that is capable of distinguishing itself either over hurdles or across a country. Pardon was favourite for money at the start, but his début as a jumper was not promising, and we doubt if he is quite sound in his wind. Bird of Prey made full amends for his Kempton defeat by winning the principal hurdle-race at Birmingham, where the Grand Annual Steeplechase fell to Bugle March, who made very light of her weight, and is invariably very dangerous where the company is not quite first class. The Doncaster Hunt Meeting has taken place during the present week, but needs no special mention.

Perhaps the most interesting course at the Plumpton Open Meeting last week was Berkely's bye in the fourth ties, which he ran with Lady Lizzie, who represented Mr. Riley in the Waterloo Cup. She beat him very easily indeed, and yet he won the cup, defeating Sir Pippin in the final tie. The Plumpton Stakes for dog puppies was divided between Handcuff, by Donald—Daisy, and Lux, by Linkboy—Fly, after an undecided; and a corresponding stake for puppies of the opposite sex fell to Hannah, by Hammond—Convolutus. Mr. Brice and Nailard acted as judge and slipper respectively, and gave thorough satisfaction. The Altear Meeting began on Wednesday, and we shall comment on the running fully next week. The annual banquet and draw took place on Tuesday evening, when there was rather less speculation than usual.

It is now definitely arranged that a second team of Australian cricketers will visit this country early in May and play a series of matches throughout the summer. Five of the eleven who came here in 1878 will not be included in the next team. The six who are coming are Charles Bannerman, Alexander Bannerman, Spofforth, Boyle, Murdoch, and Blackham.

On Saturday last a race took place on the Tyne between Robert Watson Boyd and John Hawdon, the latter receiving a start of four boats' lengths, which was computed at 40 yards 2 ft. The course was from the Scotswood Suspension Bridge to Redheugh Bridge, a distance of about three miles. After Boyd defeated Elliott with such ease on the previous Monday, this event was regarded as a certainty for him, and odds of 4 to 1 were freely laid upon him, though few could have expected the race to prove so one-sided as it turned out. The river was very rough, but Boyd had the advantage of lying in comparatively smooth water, and, getting to work at once with the long dragging stroke, he seems to have thoroughly mastered, was actually in front before they had gone a quarter of a mile. After this he naturally had matters all his own way, and won with the most ridiculous ease. The challenge from Boyd to Hanlan, to which we alluded last week, was sent without the former's knowledge, and has been withdrawn for the present, as the calls of business will not allow the Tynesider to devote any further time to sculling, at any rate until the autumn.

Another six-days' "make-the-best-of-your-way" race was begun at the Agricultural Hall on Monday morning. The competitors are "Blower" Brown, the holder of the belt, George Hazael, and Samuel Day. Brown took such a commanding lead during the first twenty-four hours that he seems pretty certain to win, and is not unlikely to cover the greatest distance on record.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

BAZAR OFFICE:
Winter Havens in the Sunny South. A complete Handbook to the Riviera. By Rosa Baughan.
British Dogs. By Hugh Daiziel.
The Apricot. By D. T. Fish.
BLACKIE AND SON:
Blackie's Comprehensive School Series. Vera Foster's Public School Writing Copy-Books. (Ten in set.)
CASSELL, PETTER, AND GALPIN:
The Field Naturalist's Handbook. By the Rev. J. G. Wood and Theodore Wood.
CHATTO AND WINDUS:
The Seamy Side. By W. Bessant and J. Rice. 3 vols.
GARDINER AND SON:
Royal Blue Book for 1880.
HODDER AND STOUGHTON:
The Story of Earth and Man. By J. W. Dawson.
HURET AND BLACKETT:
Royal Windsor. By W. H. Dixon. Vols 3 and 4.
SAMPSON LOW:
The National Music of the World. By Henry F. Chorley.
MACMILLAN:
Our Future Highway. By Verney L. Cameron. 2 vols.
English Men of Letters: Bunyan. By J. A. Froude.
Hints to Housewives. By Mrs. Frederick.
Needwork. By Elizabeth Glaister.
House Architecture. By J. J. Stephenson. 2 vols.

KEGAN PAUL AND CO.:
England under Lord Beaconsfield. By P. W. Clayden. Chapters from the Physical History of the Earth. By Arthur Nicols.

SIMPSON AND MARSHALL:
Anglers' Evenings: Papers by Members of the Manchester Anglers' Association.
SMITH AND ELDER:
The Criminal Code of the Jews according to the Talmud. By P. Berger Benny.
Greene Ferne Farm. By Richard Jefferies.
Mademoiselle de Mersac. By W. E. Norris. 3 vols.

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TREASURED LETTERS. By ALICE HATTON. "One of the prettiest songs that we have come across of late; both music and words are full of pathos."—The Graphic, Feb. 7. Post-free, 2s.—DUFF and STEWART, 2, Hanover-street.

ONE GOLDEN HOUR. By GILBERT ABECRETT and VIVIAN BLIGH. "A delightful ballad, the refrain of which lingers lovingly on the ear!"—Dramatic News. Post-free, 2s.—DUFF and STEWART, 2, Hanover-street, W.

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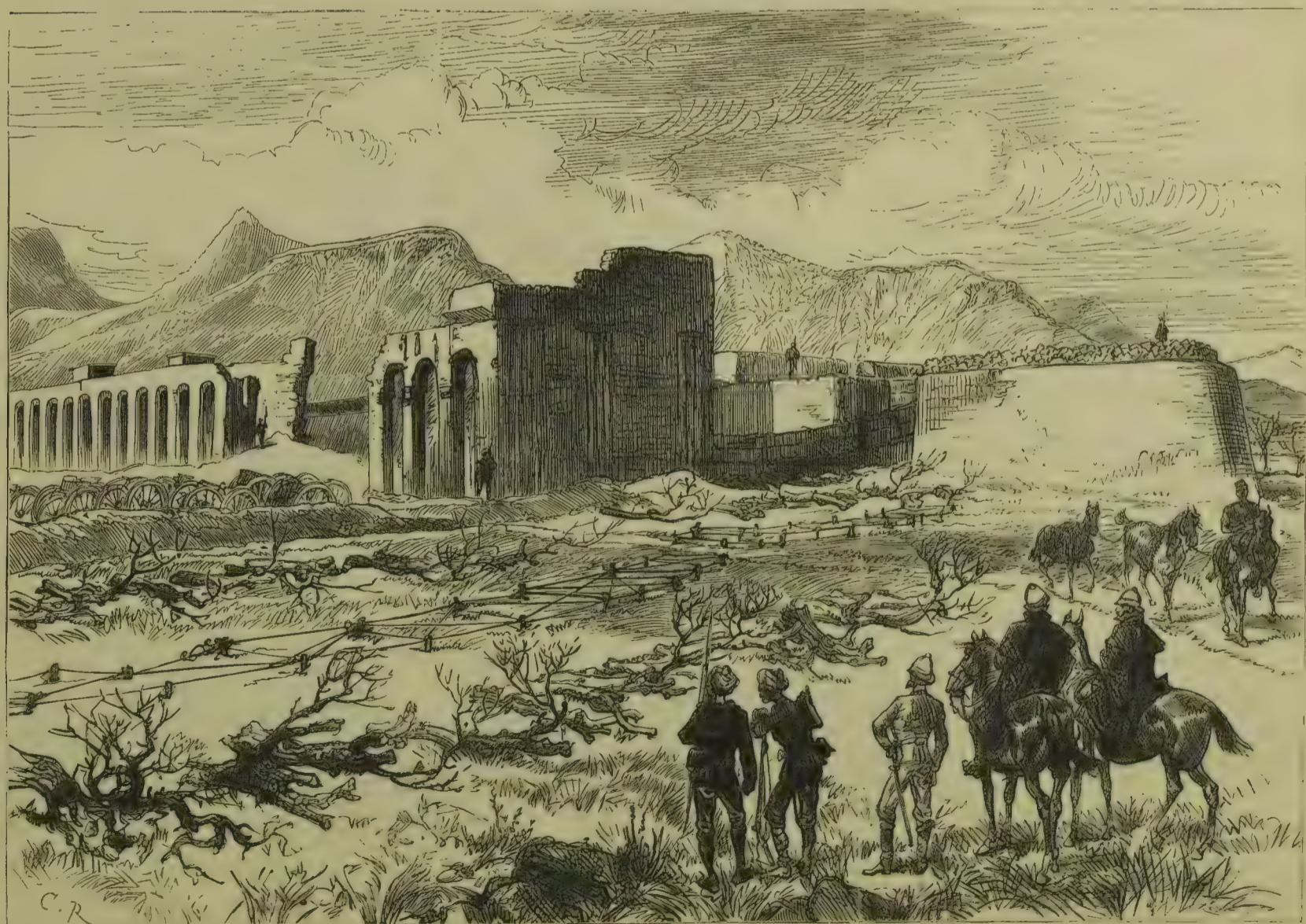
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THE AFGHAN WAR: DEFENCE OF THE BRITISH POSITION AT SHERPORE, CABUL.

SEE PAGE 186.



THE GATLING GUN BASTION ON DEC. 23 PREPARING TO REPEL THE ATTACK OF THE GHAZIS.
FROM A SKETCH BY SURGEON W. A. SIMMONS.



NORTH END OF THE SHERPORE DEFENCES.
FROM A SKETCH BY SURGEON W. A. SIMMONS.

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NECK AND NECK!

Hounds were out again, for the frost was over; and on one fresh spring morning towards the end of February—when primroses were peeping, lambs were frisking, and rooks were cawing in some high old elms—a merry party of six people met at the cross-roads at the end of the hamlet of Hunnington, a charming village on the skirts of Warwickshire, to slowly ride to cover; three of them coming from Hilton Hall, and the rest from Greyford Grange. The former comprised a bright, good-looking girl in a dark blue habit, who was riding with two gentlemen in “pink”; and the latter three well-dressed men, who there shook hands with them; the elder one, as an old acquaintance, accosting the lady who sat so squarely on her golden-bay with “Well, Miss Carrysford, we’re out again! You mean to go, I see.” “I hope so,” she replied, as her brother fraternised with his friends and chums; “and so do you, too, don’t you?” “I do,” said Captain Dixon; “or Arthur and Harold will give me the go-by. A new mount, Charlie?” “She is,” said Carrysford, who was on a grey. “A steeplechaser, and, they say, a good one; though Kate won’t own it.” “She is not so good as you are, you old beauty!” was her remark, as she patted the neck of her much-loved bay, whose name was “Saucy Boy.” And “Too soft, to my mind,” was her cousin’s comment, whose own mount, “Firefly,” was a thoroughbred, a rare, long, low one. “My grey against your brown, when hounds go, Frank?” “All right,” said Heathcote. “Kate, you’ll have company,” he resumed, as sundry habits just then came in sight—a party from the Court, with some who joined them, and whose performance, as they were unusually well mounted, was noted by all in the run that followed, for their riding was perfection—hands, seat, nerve, and judgment being good alike; and many a man that day owed a “downer” to his disinclination to refuse what they took or to be left behind by habits. The meet was “Burton Bridge,” and they soon were at it.

The draw was a cover on the hill, and the old dog-fox was there—a famous runner; for no sooner were hounds in than there was a shake of the gorse, a flourish of sterns, and a whimper from Warrior, and, as Guardsman answered it as Hector spoke, Tamerlane, with a deep bay, took it up, and out went the fox! and, as Sam signalled his exit, the rest, with a rustle, got clear of the bushes, joined in the melody, and were soon in the open, Will—the huntsman—as they came dashing out, crying, “Good hounds, good hounds, forrad, hoick forrad!” when, springing to his voice, Forester got the lead of the older ones of the pack, and the youngsters followed them, for they had a game fox before them, and the scent was breast high. They were now in the open country—grass, with a stretch of undulating tillage—and as the hounds, with heads up and sterns down, stuck to the line steadily, and hunted it fairly and eagerly, each man warmed to it, knowing that at last he was in for something good, something to recompense him for the long lie-by, for the frost had been hard and a stopper. The wild ones raced, and good men went steadily, for the fox’s point was Clickerdine; and as the hunt went on and the pace increased—for they were now in the valley where the turf was moist—an obstacle ahead, as shown by some withies, made the hearts of the “goers” beat quicker, and the “funkers” prepare for a ducking. Nor were they disappointed; for as the first flight put on a spurt, and rode straight at it without swerve or halt, and thus got over, the timid ones hung to their horses in a nervous manner, and got their bath there quickly. Five thus got freed from pressing hounds, and soon the next brook came. Two more got dropped there, and were left behind, for the pace was now much faster, and Clickerdine looked less likely; and as they went over the ploughed lands the “field” was thinned, for the ground was very heavy.

Pluckily speed the horsemen, and merrily go the hounds, for they have a straight one up, and a good run is certain; and as ever and anon, amidst a slamming of gates and a crackle of sticks, Will’s cheery voice encourages them, the good hounds stoop well to the scent and lengthen out, and away they go with a will, for they now have got their bristles up and they mean to have him. Ploughed land once more, and a cry, “Ware wheat!” for a farmer is out on guard, and as each takes up a furrow to nick round by the adland, they see the white sterns flicker at the fence, and away they are up the meadows. The talking ceases, for it is now hard galloping. Then come stiff fences and a line of rails—“grief” to a few there!—a sandy common and a boggy bit. And so they reach inclosures that will need a deal of doing, for, as the river is near, “backwaters” are added to big brush fences that take long jumps to clear them. But though there are gentlemen choosers, the ladies go straight—for “habits” are still there with them—as women when they really mean going do go, if but to set us a good example. “Do you feel like having them?” cries Captain Dixon, as he races up. “If Kate will let me,” Carrysford replies. “Let you, indeed,” is his sister’s rejoinder. “My horse is as good as yours, and I can jump what you do.” “That’s right, Kitty,” laughed her cousin, “Stick to him!” and as Arthur and Harold led the way, said Kate, “Charlie, I’ll have you for a pair of gloves!” “Come on, then,” was the cry; and as the slaggard of the pack, swerving from the thong, scrambled through the fence, and jumped the backwater, as he heard “Hoick on, there, Yarico, hoick on!” from Heathcote, Charles sent the grey at it as his sister took it—as Mr. Sturgess has so well depicted—and landed cleverly; Frank, as he followed them, crying “Neck and neck, and I’ll back the bay for lasting.”

But which had the best of it, we shall see next week, when the same artist aids us, and we end the run: S. B.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Midland Railway Company at Derby on Tuesday, Mr. Alport, who lately retired from the position of general manager, was elected a director, and the sum of £10,000 was voted to him. It was also resolved to have a portrait of the late chairman, Mr. Ellis, painted and hung in the board-room.

In the edition for 1880 of Dod’s “Peerage, Baronetage, and Knighthage,” there are numerous minute changes and improvements, which can scarcely be indicated in detail. New Knights of the Bath, and of St. Michael and St. George, have been created; a great number of promotions and retirements in the Army and Navy have taken place; while the unceasing influence of births, deaths, and marriages, occurring among seven or eight thousand individuals at home and abroad, has produced its usual striking effect.—Dod’s “Parliamentary Companion” gives the political opinions of members of both Houses; the nature of every constituency is defined, and the number of registered electors stated. The importance of the edition for 1880 will be better appreciated by bearing in mind that one hundred and forty members wholly new to Parliament, or not included in the previous Parliament, have been elected, and that a corresponding number have retired from Parliament, or have died, since the general election.

THE DEFENCE OF SHERPORE.

The repulse by General Sir F. Roberts, on Dec. 23, of the formidable attack by the Ghazis, or Mussulman fanatics of Afghanistan, on the British fortified camp of Sherpore, just outside the city of Cabul, has only been shortly narrated in this Journal, the news of that conflict and its satisfactory results having reached us by telegraph a day or two afterwards. The detailed reports of it were published at a later date. We have been furnished by a correspondent at Cabul, Surgeon W. Simmonds, of the 5th Punjaub Infantry, with sketches of the defences of the British military position at Sherpore, and some of the preparations made to resist the enemy’s final assault upon that critical occasion. The following account is abridged from a letter of the *Times*’ correspondent:

The general form and appearance of Shere Ali’s great straggling cantonment of Sherpore are probably familiar to those who have followed with any attention the progress of our troops in Afghanistan. It takes the shape of a huge parallelogram, the long sides of which lie north and south. The length of the long sides is about 2700 yards and of the short sides 1100. When our troops entered it in October the west and south faces only were completed, and these were much out of repair. The north side was formed by the Behmaru heights—a round-topped ridge of hill, broken in the centre by a broad gorge, and rising perhaps 800 ft. above the plain. The fourth side, that on the east, was only traced. It has been completed by us to a certain extent by the erection of a low line of single-storied barracks, intended for a native regiment.

A permanent scheme for the defence of Sherpore had been elaborated by Colonel Perkins, the commanding Royal Engineer, early in November. Its main feature was the fortifying of the Behmaru heights, the key of the position, by a system of breastworks and batteries requiring 1300 men. This plan has been kept in abeyance. A subordinate scheme was also proposed by Colonel Perkins, which committed the ordinary defence of the ridge to ten towers, each garrisoned by ten men. When the troops were concentrated in Sherpore on Dec. 14 this subordinate scheme had been partially carried into execution, but was still very deficient. A line of breastworks below the crest of the hill on the outer slope was the most urgent requirement; and strong working parties were at once set to work upon it, emplacements for guns at carefully-selected points being also prepared. Simultaneously with this, working parties were employed upon the gateways in the south and west faces. These were four in number—namely, three in the south and one in the west face. They were barricaded, and the means of firing from them provided. The defences on these two faces, which were finished, consist, first, of a wall averaging about 12 ft. high, with banquette and parapet, and separated from the wall by an interval of about 30 ft., the flat-roofed barracks of the troops, also provided with parapet, and forming an interior line of defence. The numerous irregular entrances through the walls which had been made in peaceful times for convenience of exit, or which had made themselves in the course of natural decay, were built up. The parapets of the outer wall were repaired, and ramps and ladders provided to give easy access to them. Thus the existing defences of the south and west faces were made temporarily secure. There remained, however, two or three points in the defences which demanded time for their completion. The village of Behmaru lies at the foot of the eastern end of the Behmaru heights. This fell within the natural line of the defences; but the engineer officers were much troubled in dealing with some outlying houses and buildings of the village which afforded cover close up to the defences. These were eventually either levelled or converted into shelter for detached marksmen; but this demanded time, and it was by no means certain at first that the enemy would afford it. The whole of the eastern face, too, was at first extremely weak, consisting merely of the low barrack erected by the 28th Punjaub Native Infantry, which was not even provided with a permanent parapet. It received some assistance, however, from a small high fort used as a native field hospital, and from another fort beyond the encinte near the south-east angle, which was held as a redoubt, and flanked the wall of the barrack. Abattis were largely used on this face, and, indeed, everywhere; fortunately, the numerous orchards and gardens in and about Sherpore afforded ample material, while the employment of the trees for this purpose had the advantage of diminishing the cover for the enemy. There was also an anxious corner for the Engineers at the north-west angle of the defences, where a broad gap intervened between the fall of the Behmaru heights and the western line of barracks. This was closed by a ditch and parapet made of the wheels of the captured guns, interlocked and imbedded in earth; it was further strengthened by abattis and by an advanced entanglement made of telegraph-wire. Each day from Dec. 14 saw some improvements added to the defences.

Simultaneously with the progress of the Engineers’ works, Colonel B. Gordon, commanding Royal Artillery, had been active in his department. The field artillery attached to Sir F. Roberts’s force consists of six muzzle-loading rifled 9-pounder guns of F Battery A Brigade of Royal Horse Artillery, six similar but slightly heavier guns belonging to G Battery 3rd Brigade Royal Artillery, four 7-pounder mountain guns, Morgan’s Battery, and the same number of Swinley’s—in all, twenty guns. Among the guns captured during the campaign were a complete battery of siege guns presented to Shere Ali some years ago by the British Government. This battery consisted of four smooth-bore 18-pounders and two 8-inch howitzers. These were forthwith pressed into the service of the defence and mounted in various parts of the works, their final position being on the south face. For the heavy guns some ammunition had been found in the tumrels, and some more was found scattered about the place. In all about 200 round shot and 160 common shell for the 18-pounders, and 140 common shell for the howitzers, were available. The fuse-holes of the shell were of all sizes, and the Afghan fuses were quite unreliable, so the 18-pounder shells were filled with sand, plugged, and used as round shot, our own fuses, wrapped round with waxcloth to make them fit, being used for the howitzers.

Grape was improvised by making a foundation of 3-pounder shot, filling the interstices with old bullets, placing a piece of wood the size of the bore at the top and bottom, and sewing the whole up in any cloth procurable. Besides this heavy battery Colonel Gordon selected from the captured guns four 7-pounder mountain guns of Afghan manufacture. These also were mounted on the south face; but the ammunition was very bad and unreliable, and it was only occasionally that during the attack on the 23rd they placed a shell with any effect.

The troops were allotted for the defence as follows:—The 3rd Sikhs, the 5th Goorkhas, and a wing of the 23rd Pioneers held the Behmaru heights, each that portion nearest its own lines; the Guides held Behmaru village; a detachment of the 28th Punjaub Infantry the field hospital and adjoining defences; the 67th Foot had a company in the redoubt near the south-east angle; and what was left of the 67th, 72nd,

and 92nd, after deducting the reserve, held the parapet and three gateways of the south face. The west face and the General’s gateway was held by the Sappers, some marksmen from the British regiments, and the 5th Punjaub Infantry, the latter regiment being also answerable for the defence of the gap at the north-west angle. The reserve, which was under General Baker, consisted of the 92nd Highlanders and a wing each of the 67th and 72nd, one mountain battery, and six squadrons dismounted cavalry at night. The ordinary post of the reserve was in rear of the gorge which divides the Behmaru heights in two. Brigadier-General H. Gough commanded from this gorge to Behmaru village, Colonel Jenkins the village, Brigadier-Generals Macpherson and Massy and Colonel Brownlow, of the 72nd, divided the ground between them from Behmaru right round to the General’s gateway. Major-General Hills, whose office as Military Governor of Cabul was in abeyance, commanded from the General’s gateway to Behmaru gorge, where he met Brigadier-General Gough.

On the evening of Monday, the 23rd, information reached General Roberts of an intended attack at daybreak next morning. There was to be a beacon fire on the hill, kindled by the enemy as a signal. The troops were, therefore, warned to be on the alert at four o’clock in the morning, and the result was awaited with perfect confidence. At the first streak of dawn the expected beacon fire blazed up in full sight of the expectant troops, and shots were heard in several directions, as the troops on the southern face saw, or fancied they saw, bodies of the Ghazis in motion. This was succeeded by continuous volleys of musketry from the field hospitals and adjacent defences in the direction of Behmaru village. These intermitted, but were soon again resumed, with artillery fire at intervals, and an irregular fire from the southern parapets. All these indications of a serious attack continued during the next two hours—the firing occasionally ceasing and being again resumed with more or less vigour. The telegraph and heliograph were now in full work between General Roberts at the western gateway and the various officers commanding the different parts of the defences. From these it was learnt that the attack was hottest at the part defended by the Guides—namely, Behmaru village, and at the eastern end of the Behmaru ridge, where General Hugh Gough commanded. The last officer was struck full in the right breast by a spent bullet, which did nothing worse than a severe contusion. About nine o’clock, it was reported that the Ghazis had taken possession of a small village outside the defences and just under the eastern end of the heights, and that the fire of the field guns which could be brought to bear was ineffectual to dislodge them. To the main point of attack, thus clearly indicated, General Baker had already directed a considerable portion of his reserve, both infantry and guns. A wing of the 3rd Sikhs was also withdrawn to the neighbourhood of Behmaru, from the western end of the heights. All this time a very heavy musketry fire was being maintained upon the south-east, south, and south-west fronts of Sherpore, and large bodies of men, encouraging one another with wild yells, were making demonstrations of attempting an escalade. These were, however, subjected to a heavy and constant fire from the four 18-pounders, with occasional shells from the 8-in. howitzers and Afghan mountain guns, and General Roberts felt that the danger of anything serious in this quarter might be disregarded. He therefore determined to deal at once vigorously with the Behmaru attack, and, as a first step, to expel the Ghazis from the small village outside. Four guns of the G battery, third brigade, supported by the 5th Punjaub Cavalry and some of the 5th Goorkhas, were accordingly pushed through the gorge on the Behmaru ridge into the plain to the north, and directed to bring a cross fire upon the village. The effect of this order was soon apparent. The fire from the village, which had been exceedingly hot, slackened. About eleven in the forenoon the General received information that the Ghazis were leaving the village, and a little later that a general retreat of the Kohistani portion of them had commenced and that they were streaming off in the direction of the nearest pass into Kohistan. Upon this General Roberts gave orders for the whole of the cavalry to move out in pursuit under General Massy, and, proceeding himself to the heights above Behmaru village, made immediate arrangements for occupying the villages deserted by the enemy and for expelling them from those to which they still clung. The cavalry meanwhile made a wide circuit round the east side of Sherpore and succeeded in intercepting the rear of the Kohistani fugitives, who were sabred by the 5th Punjaub Cavalry. This movement of the cavalry shook the courage of the Ghazis in all the other villages on the east and south-east, and, as if afraid of having their retreat to the city cut off, they streamed out of one village after another, hastening to get upon the Sial Sung hills and so reach the city. The cavalry were too far off to profit by this opportunity; but the Ghazis were raked by the fire of all the guns which could be brought to bear, and the fugitives from the nearer villages were exposed also to the fire of the Martini rifles from the walls. All the villages by which the Ghazis might annoy the march of General Gough’s brigade between the Logar bridge and Sherpore the following morning were then entered by infantry parties, the defences of some blown up, and others occupied. It was in the course of the former service that Captain Dundas and Lieutenant Nugent were unfortunately killed by the untimely explosion of a mine. In the course of the afternoon clouds of dust in the direction of Butkhak had given intimation of the approach of Gough’s brigade, and his camp was soon afterwards described pitched within easy distance of the bridge over the Logar river, about six miles from Cabul. The arrival of the anxiously-expected reinforcements was therefore now a certainty. During the night of the 23rd information reached Sir F. Roberts that the religious and military chiefs of the combination had fled from Cabul, and that all those in arms against us had dispersed to their homes. The city and Bala Hissar were accordingly occupied next day. General Hills, the military governor of the city, resumed his functions on the 25th, and was heartily welcomed by all the peaceable inhabitants.

Our view of the north end of the Sherpore defences, including the Gatling gun bastion, occupied by the 5th Punjaub Infantry, does not require much explanation. It should, however, be observed that part of the wall of the cantonments here was blown down by the enemy on the day before the entry of the British army. This is seen to the left of the loopholed tower. An extemporised defence was made by placing a number of artillery limbers close together, so that their wheels interlocked, in front of which a trench was dug, and an abattis of boughs laid on its outer side. A few yards outside of this were stretched, upon tent-pegs, several lengths of telegraph-wire, beyond which was another abattis, all which is shown in the illustration. The space between the loopholed tower and the bastion is blocked up with long arm-chests, which were filled with earth. To the right is the unfinished bastion, with a rough breastwork, overlooking the plain.

The State apartments of Windsor Castle are closed to the public until further orders.

PARLIAMENT.

If conclusive evidence were wanted as to the almost feverish interest with which hon. members on both sides of the House watch the result of the bye-elections in the hope of gleaningsome idea of which way the political wind may blow during the forthcoming appeal to the country, ample proof might have been found in the animated receptions accorded to the quartet of legislators most recently chosen to sit in Parliament. When Mr. Edward Whitley, the elect of Liverpool, duly proud of his fine white "Piccadilly weepers," made his bow, so to speak, last week, he was greeted from the thronged Conservative benches with the enthusiasm usually reserved for some star of the opera, or for the fashionable tragedian of the hour. On Friday week, the Opposition had their counter-demonstration. The débüt of Viscount Lymington as the new member for Barnstaple, and the reappearance of Mr. Waddy, gave the Liberals an opportunity for cheering which they were not slow to avail themselves of. On Monday the Ministerialists took up the running again, and had good reason for their vociferous delight in welcoming to their ranks so able a recruit as Mr. Edward Clarke, who had won for them a great Conservative victory in that eminently Liberal borough, Southwark.

LORDS.

The Earl of Beaconsfield, in the continued absence of the Marquis of Salisbury through illness, has wrapped himself, in a manner of speaking, more closely than ever in the mystic mantle of "high policy," and has gravely risen from time to time to expound with much nicety of language, but vagueness of matter, the diplomatic positions of the questions Earl Granville was curious about. Thus, on the 12th inst., the Prime Minister delicately approached those Imperial realms which he delights to people with his thoughts, and volunteered the explanation that the Government had been in communication with Persia respecting the settlement of Afghanistan, but that "the specific statement" that "we had released" Persia from her engagement *not* to occupy Herat "is entirely erroneous." Applied to the following day by Earl Granville for an explicit declaration regarding Persia and Herat, the noble Earl deprecated further "fragmentary" allusion to the matter, and could only be induced to repeat the pith of what he had said before regarding Herat.

The Prime Minister, again, was called upon by Earl Granville on Tuesday to give his opinion on the present position of the Tripartite Treaty of 1856, by which Great Britain, Austria, and France guaranteed the independence of the Ottoman Empire. As a fresh example of the delightful independence of thought indulged in by subordinate members of the Ministry, Earl Granville pointed out that, whereas Lord George Hamilton had in Midlothian asserted the Treaty was not now in force, the Attorney-General had affirmed that it was still "legally binding," though it had been "cast into the shade by the Treaty of Berlin." The noble Earl the Leader of the Opposition leant to Lord George Hamilton's view of the case. But Lord Beaconsfield thought it would be difficult to maintain that a Treaty "which has not been cancelled or abrogated is extinguished." No doubt, the integrity of Turkey could not be now guaranteed in the sense meant by the Tripartite Treaty. On the other hand, the Prime Minister would not acknowledge that it had lapsed; and stated that if this country should be appealed to by the two co-signatories to act, he should reserve to himself the right to consider the circumstances under which the appeal might be made. Lord Stratheden and Campbell agreed with this view; but Lord Kimberley and Lord Selborne rose to murmur across the table to the Prime Minister that the Tripartite Treaty ought to be regarded as politically and absolutely dead.

With regard to the important conversation on the distress in Ireland, which Lord Emly initiated on the 12th inst. by genially deprecating the employment of the machinery of Baronial Sessions for the mitigation of the misery, it should be stated that in a portion of last week's impression a noble Duke was inadvertently credited with making the able speech that came from Lord Middleton. And it was the Earl of Cork who good-humouredly accepted Lord Beaconsfield's neat and dryly humorous exposure of the utter fruitlessness of his appeal for certain cosmopolitan railway returns.

The perennial adolescence which is the characteristic of Lord Beaconsfield—from a hirsute point of view, at any rate—rendered somewhat excusable the noble Lord's defence of the action of the Government in regard to the non-appointment of Dr. Farr as Registrar-General. When the Prime Minister, however, assured the Marquis of Lothian, on the 13th inst., that it was the "advanced age" of Dr. Farr—"he is now a man of seventy-two"—which caused the Ministry to relieve him from the responsibility of the office on the eve of a new Census, it could hardly escape observation that the noble Earl himself was a year or two Dr. Farr's senior, and yet bore lightly the cares of the highest post in the State.

Lord Bury had on Monday two opportunities of showing that his buoyant complaisance has not been in the least diminished by Earl Granville's exposition on the opening night of the Session of the noble Lord's political versatility. The Under-Secretary for War assured the Earl of Malmesbury that there was every disposition to construe generously the law bearing upon the compensation to be granted to the widows and orphans of officers who had fallen in the late wars, but that Royal Warrants regulated the action of the Government in this matter to a great extent. To Lord Stratheden and Campbell, who was for having a Volunteer Review at Aldershot in combination with the regulars on Easter Monday, Lord Bury explained that the War Office, he believed, would offer no objection to the proposed Easter Monday Review at Brighton, as there was no valid reason that what General Sir Hope-Grant said was a failure twelve years ago might not be a success now.

The Lord Chancellor will not let the grass grow under his feet before dealing with the land question. His Lordship has given notice that he will next Monday introduce a bill "to enlarge the powers of owners of settled land," another "for amending the practice of conveyancing," and a measure "for the purpose of shortening the period of limitations and devolutions in certain cases."

COMMONS.

The distress and political needs of Ireland, combined with the unquenchable loquacity of some few of her members, have kept the Sister Isle still to the front in the Lower House. Beginning with Mr. Mitchell Henry's portentous announcement of resolutions to the effect that twenty millions sterling ought to be granted to Ireland for the construction of railways and harbours, the sitting of the 12th inst. was well-nigh monopolised by Ireland. Mr. O'Donnell resumed his inordinately long speech of the previous day in support of his amendment to the report of the Address, and framed an extravagantly severe indictment of the Ministry for neglecting to set about assuaging the suffering in Ireland earlier. He found a congenial seconder and supporter in Mr. Biggar and Mr. Finigan; but got scant support from the other Irish members, his amendment being rejected by 128 to 12 votes. The Chancellor of the Exchequer then moved

the second reading of the Relief of Distress Bill; upon which Mr. Synan introduced an amendment to the effect that it was inexpedient that any portion of the surplus funds of the Irish Church Commission should be applied to this purpose when Imperial resources ought to supply the sum wanted. A protracted discussion gave the Chancellor of the Exchequer occasion to detail the various means by which the Government hoped to be able to relieve the distress, and, in the end, Mr. Synan's amendment was withdrawn, and the bill read the second time.

The Attorney-General secured thereafter the second reading of the Bankruptcy Law Amendment Bill, which is to effect some of the much-needed reforms in the administration of the Court of Bankruptcy. Late though the hour was, the Government managed to do a further stroke of business. Sir H. Selwin-Ibbetson, or rather the Chancellor of the Exchequer, prevailed upon the House to read a second time the Colonial Chartered Banks Bill, which was then referred to a Select Committee. The same fate befell the Medical Act Amendment Bills; and the Scottish Artisans' Dwellings Improvement Act Amendment Bill passed through Committee.

The reported excesses of our troops in South Africa, and the alleged severities of General Sir F. Roberts at Cabul were the most important matters touched upon at question-time yesterday week. Colonel Stanley informed Mr. John Holms that Sir Garnet Wolseley abided by his declaration that Dr. Russell had in the *Daily Telegraph* grossly exaggerated the alleged excesses of our soldiery. Mr. E. Stanhope, with a buoyant delivery, somehow suggestive of the recital of a school address by a prize collegian, read a long letter from Sir F. Roberts exculpating himself from the charges that men had been hanged for simply fighting against us. Such accusations were "devoid of truth." Summary punishment had only been inflicted on those concerned in the massacre, and on the Afghans who had been found guilty of mutilating our wounded.

The Under-Secretary for India was afterwards enabled by a suggestion of Sir David Wedderburn's to pose on a higher pedestal of State, so to speak. Sir David Wedderburn was strongly of opinion that the people of India should be granted representative institutions. But Mr. Stanhope had no difficulty in showing that it would be impracticable to carry the notion generally into effect in "a conglomeration of many peoples, differing in caste and religion, and having no cohesion." As it was, however, natives were present in the proportion of three to one European in the existing municipalities; and natives also sat in the Councils of Madras, Bombay, and Bengal, besides the Legislative Council of the Viceroy. Sir George Campbell was of opinion, however, that it was absolutely necessary to enlist the further assistance of the natives in the administration of Indian affairs.

A vain endeavour was then made to resuscitate the buried corpse of Protection by Mr. Wheelhouse, whose motion for a Select Committee to inquire into the working of "our one-sided so-called Free Trade" was honoured by being exhaustively and exhaustingly discussed, but was negatived, amid laughter, by a majority of 69—75 against 8. Sir William Harcourt followed, and the hon. and learned member's inquiry respecting the Tripartite Treaty was answered by the Attorney-General in the same way that the Prime Minister replied to a similar query in "another place."

The Speaker, being confined to his rooms by a cold, Mr. Raikes took the chair on Monday, and had the satisfaction of shaking hands with Mr. Clarke, after the new member for Southwark had taken the oaths, amid the Ministerial rejoicings previously referred to. Viscount Castlereagh denied the Marquis of Hartington's soft impeachment that the noble Viscount had coquetted with Irish Home Rule in County Down, and emphatically repeated his denial when the Leader of the Opposition read the documents upon which his statement was founded.

The Irish Distress Relief Bill got into Committee on Monday night, after a final effort on the part of Mr. Synan to extract the sinews of war from "Imperial resources;" and the most important episode of the debate was the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement that the sum to be granted would be increased from £500,000 to £750,000.

Mr. Plimsoll, it will be remembered, distinguished himself a few Sessions ago in his capacity as "The Sailor's Friend" by rolling up the floor of the House very much as Jack might do under similar provocation, and by shaking his fist in the face of the present Prime Minister. On Tuesday, Mr. Plimsoll was again accused of a breach of privilege. Sir C. Russell gravely complained that the hon. member had caused to be posted on the walls of Westminster a placard virtually accusing him of inhumanity and degrading conduct in procuring the postponement of a bill for preventing the shipping of grain in bulk. Mr. Plimsoll acknowledged that he had written the placard, and maintained the justice of what he had written. Sir C. Russell's motion that the hon. member's action should be declared "a breach of the privileges of this House" was seconded by Mr. Mowbray and supported by Mr. D. Onslow, who had also incurred the wrath of the hon. member for Derby. But Mr. A. M. Sullivan stoutly defended his friend; and, on the motion of the Marquis of Hartington, who regretted that Mr. Plimsoll had not withdrawn the word "degrading," the Chancellor of the Exchequer agreed that the consideration of the matter should be postponed till Friday.

Mr. Meldon's annual motion for the equalisation of the Irish with the English borough franchise then came on, and was mainly noticeable for the speech in which Mr. Bright, in his best debating vein, declared that the granting of such just measures of reform as this would be a certain method of conciliating Ireland. The vivacity with which Mr. Bright attacked the Conservative Party and Mr. Lowther (who made a courageous rejoinder) for consistent neglect of Ireland was keenly relished by the Irish members, whose cheers were redoubled when they found that Mr. Meldon's motion was only negatived by the comparatively small majority of 51—242 against 188.

On Wednesday afternoon the business was very light. Her Majesty's thanks for the loyal Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne were conveyed to the House with due ceremony by the Comptroller to the Household. Mr. Marten then obtained the second reading of the Leases Bill, and very little else was done ere the House adjourned, before four o'clock.

MEMORIAL TO LORD LAWRENCE.

A largely-attended public meeting was held at the Mansion House yesterday week for the purpose of considering the erection of a Memorial to Lord Lawrence. Among the large and influential assembly of gentlemen on the platform were the Marquis of Ripon, the Earl of Derby, Earl Granville, the Earl of Shaftesbury, Lord Northbrook, Lord G. Hamilton, Sir R. Montgomery, Sir H. Norman, Mr. Justice Stephen, Mr. Forster, M.P., and Dean Stanley. Letters of regret for absence were read from the Duke of Cambridge, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Argyll, Lord Napier, Sir Stafford Northcote, Lord Napier and Ettrick, and from others. The

Lord Mayor presided, but owing to illness he was excused from addressing the meeting.

The Earl of Derby was the first speaker, and in an eloquent and feeling speech paid a warm eulogy to the memory of Lord Lawrence as an eminent public servant, who with a great intellect combined a pure and unselfish character. Malice itself never fastened upon his career the imputation of one discreditable or one unworthy act. His work was done; his voice would never excite envy, except it might so far as his dead greatness overshadowed the living, and a friend need not fear to speak in terms of too warm sympathy about a life which offered to an enemy absolutely not one topic of detraction. The impression which his character left upon his (the Earl of Derby's) mind was what he could only describe as a certain historical simplicity. If his opportunity had never come, and if he had never had a chance to do any great historical act, they felt when they met him that they were in the presence of a man capable of doing great things if they were wanted, and capable also of leaving the credit to any who chose to claim it. He need not remind them of the leading facts of his career; that would be but to repeat one of the most famous chapters in Anglo-Indian history. It was hardly an exaggeration to say that the action of Sir John Lawrence in the crisis of the Mutiny saved India. The policy of Lord Lawrence was one of strict economy, because he knew of the abject poverty, the constant struggle against distress and even destitution which characterised the normal life of the Indian peasant, and it seemed to him cruelty and a crime to thrust upon a class so heavily burdened the added weight of unnecessary taxation. It was a policy of peace, because he knew well that war—which meant service and opportunity for promotion to the Anglo-Indian officers, and which sometimes meant additional appointments for the English civil servant—meant for the Indian native increased suffering from the increased pressure of public burdens. His object was to make our position in India more tolerable to the natives, to maintain peace and order, and to enable them in the long run to work out their own civilisation in their own way. On his brother's tomb, according to his brother's wish, was the epitaph, "Here lies Henry Lawrence, who tried to do his duty;" and he (Lord Derby) thought that over the tomb of the younger and more fortunate brother might be fittingly inscribed the words, "Here lies John Lawrence, who did his duty." His Lordship concluded by moving "That Lord Lawrence was a statesman of whom England is proud, and that he deserved an honourable memorial at the hands of his countrymen."

Dean Stanley, in seconding the resolution, spoke of Lord Lawrence's wonderful presence of mind, his resolute, calm determination, and of the indomitable backbone which earned for him among his contemporaries the name of "Iron John."

The resolution was then carried.

Lord G. Hamilton, M.P., then moved "That it is necessary to collect funds for the memorial resolved on, and that this meeting pledges itself to do so."

Mr. Justice Stephen seconded the resolution, which was also unanimously agreed to; and, on the proposal of Lord Northbrook, seconded by Mr. Seton Karr, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the Lord Mayor for presiding.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

It is now practically decided that the Easter Monday Volunteer Review will take place at Brighton. A full meeting of metropolitan volunteer officers was held last Saturday, under the chairmanship of Lord Ranclagh, at which the Mayor of Brighton stated that he was in a position to promise a review ground of about four miles frontage and two miles in depth; and Mr. Knight, general manager of the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway, explained the facilities that the Company would offer. A resolution, "That, subject to the approval of the military authorities, a field-day of Volunteers be held at Brighton on Easter Monday next," was carried.

There was a large gathering in Westminster Hall last Saturday evening, to witness the annual presentation of the prizes to members of the Queen's Westminster by Lady Constance Stanley. The corps mustered 550 strong, and after it had been inspected by General Higginson, C.B., commanding the Home District, Colonel Bushby made a satisfactory report of the condition of the regiment, stating that although its numerical strength had decreased during the year from 911 to 910, its percentage of efficiency had increased. The regimental dinner afterwards took place at the Criterion, Colonel Bushby in the chair; the Secretary of State for War, the First Lord of the Admiralty, and Lord Chelmsford being amongst the speakers.

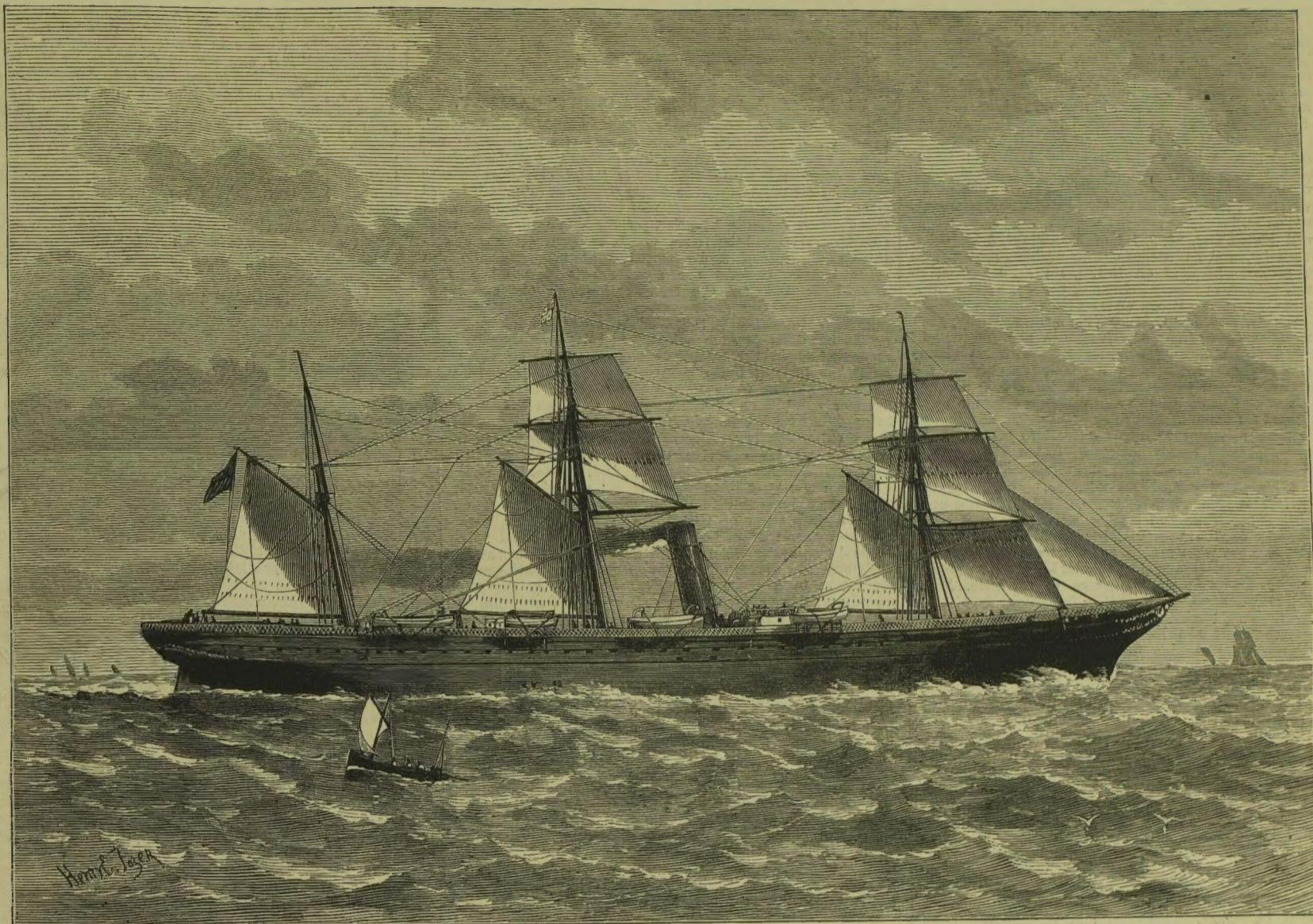
Viscount Bury, Under-Secretary of State for War, presided last Saturday at the annual meeting of the 26th Kent. He alluded to the rise and progress of the Volunteer force, and, after quoting some statistics showing its position, he congratulated his hearers on its increasing numbers and efficiency. His Lordship then complimented the corps on the excellent inspection it had passed, and distributed the prizes won in the annual competitions.

The report of the Municipal Corporations Commission has been published. Special reports are made as to eighty-six places into which inquiry has been made. The Commissioners express the opinion that none of these Corporations which are municipal in their character should continue in their present state and condition, but in some of them they think that municipal institutions might be usefully retained.

A meeting and entertainment in connection with the Christian Blind Relief Society was held on Tuesday in the Victoria Park Tabernacle, when Professor Fawcett, M.P., speaking upon the subject of the welfare of the blind, recommended those who might in the future be deprived of sight to live exactly the same life, as far as possible, as though they still enjoyed it. When, at twenty-five years of age, he lost his sight there were many things of which he was passionately fond, and he resolved that those pursuits which he could follow he would. No one enjoyed salmon-fishing in the Tweed or the Spey more than he did, no one more enjoyed throwing the fly in some quiet stream in Hampshire or Wiltshire. He enjoyed as much as anyone did a gallop over the turf in company with some friend. He appreciated all the health-giving vigour of a long row from Oxford to London, and, although the late severe frosts nipped up a great many people, no one in the whole country enjoyed better than he, with a friend, did a fifty or sixty mile skate on the Fens. He referred to these facts in no spirit of egotism, but as showing that there was still for the blind a store of happiness and pleasure if only they had the courage and determination to avail themselves of it. For those who suffered from any infliction there was in nature a wonderful power of compensation. With regard to the blind children, the greatest service which could be rendered them was not to rear them in the bonds of charitable dependence, but to enable them to go forth into the world, if possible, to earn their own living, and to stand upon their own resources.



THE ORIENT LINE STEAMER CHIMBORAZO IN A GALE.—FROM NOTES SUPPLIED BY AN OFFICER OF THE SHIP.



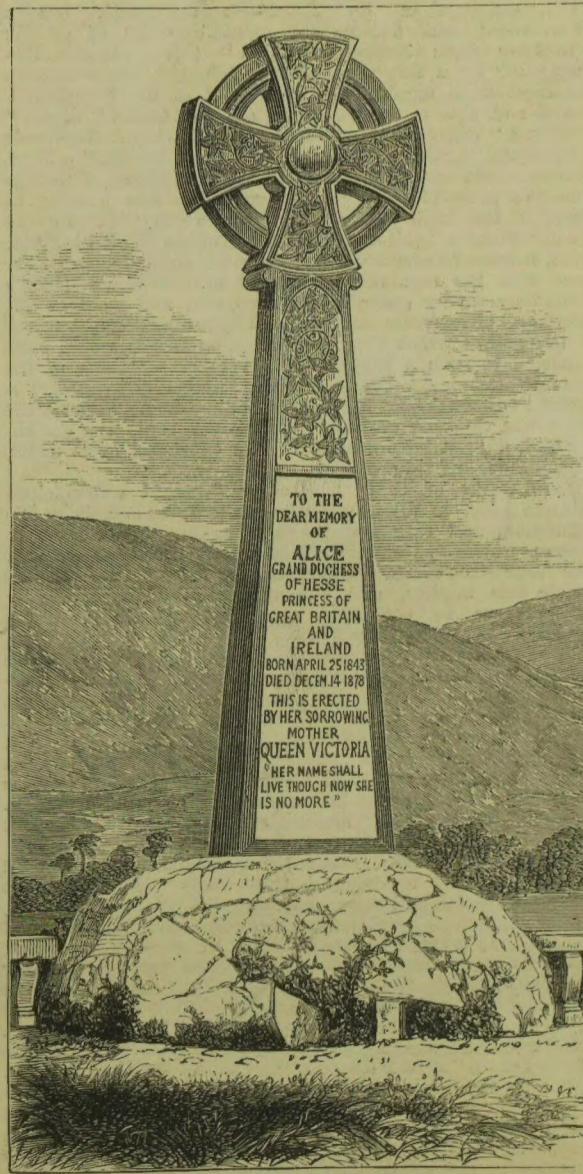
THE STEAM-SHIP CHIMBORAZO, OF THE ORIENT LINE, FOR AUSTRALIA.

THE LATE PRINCESS ALICE.

Her Majesty the Queen has erected a monumental cross to the memory of her beloved daughter, the late Princess Alice, Grand Duchess of Hesse, at Balmoral Castle. It is composed of a monolith of dark rich grey granite, about 12 ft. high, which is fixed in a cairn of rough quarry-hewn granite procured from a quarry on her Majesty's property. It is erected on a knoll in the grounds at Balmoral, about half a mile west of the castle, and faces eastward, looking down the river Dee. We give an illustration of this monument, which is an object of attraction to travellers on the high road from Aberdeen to Braemar. The monument was designed and executed by Messrs. A. Macdonald, Field, and Co., of the Granite Works, Aberdeen, and of Euston-road, London.

ACCIDENT TO THE STEAM-SHIP CHIMBORAZO.

This magnificent vessel, one of the new "Orient Line," carrying passengers and mails from London to Adelaide and Melbourne, and returning by the Suez Canal route, met with a severe blow from a storm-wave in going out of the Channel on the 9th inst. It caused some loss of life, and so much damage to the ship's fittings that she was obliged to put back and delay her voyage. The Chimborazo was commanded by Captain C. E. Le Poer Trench, and had left Plymouth on the Sunday, having on board 484 persons, of whom 362 were passengers. About nine o'clock on Monday morning, when the vessel was sixty miles southward of Ushant, in a violent gale, a high wave was observed to windward, towering high above, and bearing down on the vessel, threatening to carry all before it. Fortunately the wave reached the ship with abated force. It struck the vessel on her weather beam, heeled her over, and dashed across part of her deck. For a breadth of about 50 ft. the spar deck was swept, and everything on it was carried overboard. The ponderous steam-launch was torn from its bed, the massive bolts of its fastenings wrenched asunder, and the launch lifted off the deck and sent among the breakers to leeward. Five of the ship's heavy boats were similarly treated, the vessel thus losing six out of her eight boats. The davits, the skylight, the smoking-room, several sheep-pens, ventilators, and the general fittings of the vessel on that part of her deck followed the boats. It is understood that the ship herself was not really in any danger. The



MEMORIAL CROSS OF PRINCESS ALICE AT BALMORAL.

water was stopped from running below, and the engine fires were quite safe. The shock was fearful, and great was the consternation; but only three persons were washed overboard. The wounded lay about in sad confusion amidst the remains of the broken fittings, drenched to the skin, stunned by the crushing volume of water, and more or less severely injured. Some were suffering with broken thighs and other bones, others with bruised chests and internal injuries, or with flesh wounds, abrasions, and contusions. After everything on deck had been secured a muster of the crew and passengers took place, and it was discovered that the list of sufferers was as follows:—Mr. J. Boyer, first-class passenger, and Jones and Doyle, able seamen, washed overboard and drowned; and Mr. J. E. Jones, second-class passenger, who died from injuries received. Among the severely injured were Mr. J. C. Alexander and Mr. Donald, first-class passengers; Joseph Phelan, J. S. Wrigley, and Alfred Tugwell, second-class passengers; and Reeve and David Schweizer, able seamen. Slightly injured:—W. D. Crank, and G. Bird, first-class passengers; W. Scott and Mr. Francis, second-class passengers; Doyle, chief steward; Pownall, chief cook; Turner, chief baker; John Bradley and Eugène Driscoll, able seamen; and Alfred Crawford, ordinary seaman. The ship returned to Plymouth, and landed her passengers; she then came to the port of London, and was placed in dock for some needful repairs. These were speedily effected by the workmen of Messrs. Green's ship-building yard, aided by the great facilities which the Dock Company afforded; and on Monday last, within six days of her return to Plymouth, the Chimborazo again left the Thames, carrying the mails, as originally put on board, to be supplemented by other mails at Plymouth. The passengers who had been left at Plymouth were there re-embarked; and the ship has now proceeded on her voyage to Australia, with the delay of but one week in consequence of the accident, for which neither her owners nor her commander are to be blamed. She was not at all overladen, and her crew, numbering 120 men, of whom thirty-eight were seamen and thirty-four engineers, was considered amply sufficient by the inspector of the Board of Trade.

On Sunday morning the theatre at Huddersfield was destroyed by fire, the only part of the building saved being that in which the refreshment buffet and one or two small rooms were situated.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

The will (dated Nov. 19, 1877) of Mr. Henry Crawshay, late of Oaklands Park, Gloucestershire, and of Llanglans, Glamorganshire, who died on Nov. 24 last, was proved on the 26th ult. at the Gloucester district registry by Edwin Crawshay and William Crawshay, the sons, and James Wintle, the executors, the personal estate, including leaseholds, being sworn under £300,000. The testator leaves to his wife, Mrs. Eliza Crawshay, his furniture, plate, pictures, household effects, horses, carriages, yacht, £1000, Oaklands Park, and all his property in the parishes of Newnham and Awre, Gloucestershire, and Llanglans, and all his property in the parish of Oystermouth, Glamorganshire, absolutely, and, in addition, £4000 per annum for life; to his son Herbert Henry certain stocks to the amount of £35,000 and one half of his moiety in the partnership with his sons Edwin and William; to his executor Mr. Wintle, £500; and he makes up the portions of each of his seven daughters to £25,000. The residue of his real and personal estate is to be divided between his said sons, Edwin and William.

The will (dated Dec. 22, 1871) of Mr. Richard Hornsby, late of Somerby, and Spittlegate, Lincolnshire, agricultural implement maker, who died on Dec. 8, 1877, was proved on the 5th inst. by Robert Henry Johnston, the acting executor, the personal estate being sworn under £160,000. The testator leaves to his wife, Mrs. Helen Mary Thompson Hornsby, £750 and his mansion house (with the furniture and effects) and estate at Somerby and Harrowby, together with his manor and property at Creton and Little Bytham, Lincolnshire, for life; at her death such property is to go to his son, Richard William. The residue of his real and personal estate is to be held upon trust for his wife for life or widowhood, and on her death or second marriage he gives £24,000 to his son John Henry James, £14,000 to his daughter, Helen Mary Annie, and the residue equally between his said two sons.

The will (dated May 5, 1873) with two codicils (dated March 13, 1878, and Sept. 23, 1879) of Mr. Charles Woodbridge, late of Uxbridge, solicitor and banker, who died on Dec. 24 last, was proved on the 28th ult. by Charles Woodbridge, Thomas Hurry Riches Woodbridge, and Henry William Woodbridge, the sons, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £60,000. The testator bequeaths to his wife, Mrs. Sarah Woodbridge, £200, and all his household furniture, plate, pictures, china, horses, carriages, and effects; he also gives her an annuity of £600 for life; to the Uxbridge British School for Boys, the Uxbridge British School for Girls, and the Uxbridge Infant School, ten guineas each; and legacies to his executors, to friends for mourning rings, clerks, and servants. The residue of his property, real and personal, he gives to his six sons.

The will (dated Oct. 9, 1879) of Lieutenant-Colonel John Alexander Forbes, formerly commanding the 92nd Highlanders, late of St. Margaret's, Auckland-hill, Lower Norwood, who died on Oct. 31 last, was proved on the 23rd ult. by James Paull and Lieutenant-Colonel Patrick Browne Simpson, the nephews, Henry Edward Tatham, and the Rev. George Ross, the executors, the personal estate in the United Kingdom being sworn under £45,000. The testator gives, grants, assigns, and disposes the whole of his heritable and movable estate to his said nephew James Paull, subject to numerous bequests to his nephews, nieces, and others, and the payment of £100 each to the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen, and the Female Lock Asylum, Westbourne-grove, Harrow-road. The estate of Saint Leonards, near Edinburgh, is specially settled by the testator upon his same nephew.

The will (dated Feb. 23, 1878) with a codicil (dated Nov. 11 following) of Mr. David Johnston, late of No. 13, Marlborough-buildings, Bath, who died on Oct. 17 last, was proved on the 19th ult. by James Johnston, the brother, and Henry Johnston, the nephew, the executors, the personal estate in United Kingdom being sworn under £35,000. The testator gives to his wife, Mrs. Anna Johnston, his household furniture and effects; to his niece, Mrs. Fanny Polwhele, £100; to his coachman, Samuel Benton, £50; to his brother James, his house in Queen-street, Edinburgh; and the life-rent in the residue of his real and personal estate to his wife for life; at her death such residue is to be divided among his brothers and sisters and their children.

The will (dated June 16, 1865) with five codicils (dated March 24, 1869; Sept. 24, 1872; Jan. 14 and Aug. 8, 1876; and July 22, 1879) of Mr. Charles Montague Chester, late of Chicheley Hall, Bucks, who died on Nov. 17 last, was proved on the 20th ult. by Charles Chester, the acting executor, the personal estate being sworn under £30,000. The testator devises all his real estate to his eldest son, Charles Anthony, charged with an annuity of £600 to his wife, Mrs. Maria Chester, and with annuities of £200 to each of his other children for their respective lives. There are numerous legacies, and the residue of the personality is to be divided between his wife and children. The testator desires that his coffin may be made out of oak grown on the Chicheley estate.

The will (dated July 28, 1877) with several codicils of Miss Anne Morgell, late of No. 35, Warwick-road, Maida-vale, and of No. 8, Rue des Réservoirs, Versailles, who died on May 23, 1878, was proved in London on the 20th ult. by Sir William Anderson Rose and Charles John Todd, the executors, the personal estate in England being sworn under £25,000.

The will (dated Oct. 19, 1878) with a codicil thereto (dated May 22, 1879) of Archibald John Stephens, LL.D., Q.C., late of No. 61, Chancery-lane, who died on Jan. 30, 1880) was proved by his brother, the Rev. William Henry Goldwyer Stephens, and by his son-in-law, John Maunsell Esq., the acting executors, the personal estate being sworn under £25,000. The testator, after bequeathing certain specific legacies and annuities, bequeaths his real and personal estate upon trust for the benefit of his grandson, Archibald John Stephens Maunsell, and his children.

The will (dated Feb. 22, 1877) with a codicil (dated March 26 in the same year) of Mr. John Humfrys Parry, Serjeant-at-law, late of the Temple and of Holland Park, Kensington, who died on the 10th ult., was proved on the 28th ult. by the Rev. Edwin Abbott, D.D., Head Master of the City of London School, and Seneca Hughes, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £16,000. The testator bequeaths to his friend and clerk, William Mason, £250; and the residue of his property is to be divided between all his children as tenants in common.

The will of the late Mrs. Amelia Margaretta Skipworth, of Risley Hall, Derby, widow, was proved by Thomas Kirkby and Philip George Skipwith, the executors, the personality being sworn under £14,000. The testatrix gives legacies to several married daughters and to other persons, and a legacy to be applied by the executors for charitable objects, and bequeaths the residue of her property to her daughter Rosamond Frances Skipworth.

The will (dated Feb. 27, 1878) of Mr. William Edward James, late of Barrock Park, Carlisle, who died on Dec. 27 last, was proved on the 21st ult. by Charles Fetherstonhaugh and John Henry James, the brother, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £12,000.

The will of the late Anne Hillyard (the lady who founded and endowed Mr. Spurgeon's Orphanage for Boys with the sum of £20,000) was proved on the 10th inst. by Josiah Cox Woodhill, Arthur Brooks, and Thomas Brooks, all of Birmingham, under £12,000. The testatrix bequeathed to Mr. Spurgeon a legacy of £300; and, after bequeathing several small legacies and annuities, she devised and bequeathed the residue of her estate to her nephew, Arthur Brooks, of Birmingham, solicitor.

FINE ARTS.

DRAWINGS AT MESSRS. AGNEWS' GALLERY.

The exhibition of water-colour drawings at Messrs. Agnews', in Old Bond-street, has to some extent a special interest; not so much because the drawings are generally well "selected" and a considerable proportion are of "high class," as because works by deceased as well as living painters are included, and thus an opportunity is afforded for instructive comparison. It is somewhat difficult, however, for the critic to decide what standpoint should be taken up in reviewing such a collection as this—if it be reviewed at all. We do not mean simply because the collection is that of a firm of dealers; but for the reasons that, on the one hand, the works by the early artists here are not sufficiently numerous to enable us to trace the course of the school, as might be done in such a loan exhibition as that we have recently had at the Grosvenor Gallery; and, on the other hand, the body of living painters in water colours are, with some exceptions, more fully represented in the spring and summer exhibitions of the galleries to which they severally belong. As for the works here being the property of dealers, if an exhibition is worthy of public inspection (which this certainly is) we conceive that we have nothing to do with the accident of possession; and, moreover, it is not easy to say now-a-days what is *not* a dealers' exhibition, or what is an exhibition and what is a shop—when so large a proportion of the works at Burlington House are bought by art-traders before they are sent in, and when in dealers' displays generally more or less of the contents are contributed by artists for sale on commission. And even if all the works in a given exhibition were the property of a speculator, there is no necessary ground for the odium which in the minds of some artists and purchasers attaches to the very name of "picture-dealer," any more than there is for prejudice against the convenient middle-man in other branches of commerce. There can be no doubt that in a commercial country such as this the tax levied on the producer and consumer by such firms as Messrs. Agnews' is compensated for tenfold by the increase they effect in the demand and consequent supply. And it is probably a benefit to art itself, and certainly an advantage to the artist in some respects, to be liberated from direct dependence on the *dilettante* collector and the amateur critic.

However, without further digression, we repeat that there is an opportunity here for comparing drawings by deceased and living painters. Here are by the former the "Lancaster" by De Wint and the "Lancaster Sands" by David Cox, two of the most important drawings of each, and another large drawing by Cox of "Dolgelly," in his latest most "blot-esque" style, as well as minor works; three drawings by Turner, including "Windermere" (198), an early work in little more than brown monochrome; "Patterdale" (82), in an advanced manner, with the browns playing into tertiary citrines, and olives and russets, and the greys deepening into indigo—fine in composition and in the effect of storm; and "Lichfield" (90), of the latter time, where we see all sorts of license, not only in the rendering of local fact, but in the oppositions of orange and saffron architecture (very shaky in construction), with clouds and water of cobalt or ultramarine, and figures with vermillion shadows. Then we have good examples of Copley Fielding—"Arundel from the Park" (192), striking in its impressive amplitude, but a little vapid and flat in the great breadths of sward; "Looking from Hollingbury Hill" (132), likewise distinguished by a fine sense of space, though hurt a little by the mechanical regularity of the detail in the foreground. Sound and able in workmanship are Stanfield's "Venice" (193) and "Village in the Austrian Tyrol" (125). Topham's "Fountain at Seville" (30) and "Spanish Posada" (67) are also excellent examples; and we see something of George Barrett's graceful feeling for composition and keeping in effect in the small drawing of "Kenilworth" (3). Prout's art in "Munich" (11) and the Temple of the Sybil at Tivoli (8) is, it must be confessed, of a somewhat limited description, done with the regularity of a pattern. William Hunt's ploughboy saying grace before his bacon and potatoes (57) fails in its ultra-rustic character and latent misplaced humour of the pathos which Frere, or Millet, or Israels would have imparted to such a subject. J. F. Lewis's "Pride of the Harem" (86) looks like a delicate English girl. There is nothing Oriental about her, saving her costume. Perhaps the artist was thinking of Lady Ellenborough, only the sheikh, her lord, did not keep a harem. The execution is, as usual, liney, crude, and thin.

The works of these and other deceased water-colour painters have, in recent years, greatly fluctuated in public estimation, and they may fluctuate again. We confess to disappointment at De Wint's "Lancaster," already mentioned. The large scale of the drawing and the technical *tour de force* which this implies, and the admirable distance, hardly reconcile us to the long formal hard lines of the nearer planes, the obvious forcing of the shadows and foliage, and the unpicturesque way in which the wooden cattle are put in. David Cox's "Lancaster Sands" is unquestionably of higher artistic quality; the indeterminate, mysterious effect of the rainy sky that hangs over the broad waste of sand reveals true artistic sentiment. Only perverse theorizing, affectation, or fashion, can, however, accept as the ultimate aim of art the inchoate masses of paint in the "Dolgelly," or the hasty blots of impression in some of Cox's smaller drawings. Nevertheless, the early masters of water-colours looked at Nature in her larger most essential relations with results which, as may be seen here, many living artists would do well to emulate; and in doing so those early painters secured an aerial breadth and transparency not lightly to be sacrificed, seeing that these qualities are the sole recommendations of water-colour painting—its resources in all other respects being vastly inferior to those of oil. The modern practice of water colour (including the admission of body colour) found its most perfect development in the works of F. Walker, of whom there are several choice specimens—finished like a Greek gem, notably "The Rainbow" (206), "The Governess" (211), "The Music Lesson" (217). But then these would have lost nothing, nay, might well even have gained something, in oil.

This is hardly the occasion for dwelling on the works by living painters; Mr. F. Goodall's "Ishmail" (47) and "Sarah and Isaac" (42) are among the best—decidedly superior to the drawing in the Grosvenor Gallery: water colours appear to suit the amenity of the Academician's style. Among other artists whom we noted as well represented are Sir John

Gilbert—two Shakespearean illustrations (35 and 54), E. Duncan, F. Tayler, Birkett Foster—a number of small drawings; A. W. Hunt, H. S. Marks, A. Fripp, Mrs. Allingham, E. Hargitt, and Mrs. H. C. Angell. The painters of the Scotch school scarcely appear to advantage in water colours—some of their favourite artifices in oil being impossible in this medium. Mr. Peter Graham's "Benighted on the Moors" (29) is sadly crude in its rank staining of yellow and purple and olive. Among works by less well-known artists we remarked a very considerable advance in Mr. T. B. Hardy's "Morning After the Wreck" (45), and several drawings by Mr. E. Ellis presented varied merit and promise—if indeed handling so dashing is not a perilous accomplishment in a young painter. Mr. Alma Tadema's early drawing "Egyptian Chessplayers" (201) is singularly prosaic in execution compared to later works. Water-colour painting, by-the-way, is being cultivated with marked success in the Italian schools. "The Connoisseur" (33) by Signor Detti is very clever and brilliant, if a little vulgar. But for refinement of colour, tone, and execution—carried perhaps almost to excess—for sentiment of nature, and for delicate draughtsmanship and modelling of figures and animals, there is nothing here superior to Signor Chialeva's drawing (104) of a couple of children, seated among sheep and lambs, watching the flight of swallows.

DRAMATIC FINE-ART GALLERY.

Not only do many actors and actresses handle the brush, pencil, or chisel, but the interest of dramatic art finds diverse expression or association in fine-art through scene-painting, portraiture, and other media. Taking advantage of these well-known relations of the mimetic art, some friends of both have engaged the rooms, 168, New Bond-street (formerly known as the German Gallery), and, under the above title, have opened an extensive display of theatrical portraits, dramatic illustrations, scenic designs, paintings from nature, &c. The project deserves success, though much improvement is possible in the details of management; in the composition of the company—for, in truth, some of them scarcely know their part, and require too much prompting in their new character; and in the *mise-en-scène*—for evidently the *entrepreneurs* are new to the artistic stage business of hanging, and even the numbers do not follow consecutively. However, it would take many years to exhaust the pictorial works which might be brought to the illustration of the drama.

The present collection is very far too numerous and various in its suggestiveness for it to be possible within our limits to attempt anything like analysis or detailed description. It must suffice to say that the gathering is rich in histrionic and dramatic portraits, sometimes in character, commencing with Madame Le Brun's admirable portrait of Kitty Clive, and including Kemble, the elder Kean and Edmund Kean, Liston, the elder Mathews and Charles Mathews, Miss Foote (the Countess of Harrington), Phelps, Webster, Compton, Mrs. Nisbett, Mrs. Stirling—a meritorious bas-relief by Miss Cooper; Mrs. Rousby, as "the Missing Gainsborough"; O. Smith, by E. M. Ward; Mackay, by Sir Daniel Macnee; the dramatists Sheridan, Sheridan Knowles, Judge Talfourd, and many others. Among the most interesting portraits of living theatrical notabilities are Mr. Archer's full-length of Henry Irving as Charles I., in which the artist has appropriately sought to obtain a resemblance, at least in the costume, to Vandyke's portraits of the hapless Monarch—the likeness to Mr. Irving, however, can scarcely be considered happy; a portrait of the same eminent actor as Hamlet, by F. Barnard; a pleasing, mellow-toned kit-cat of Miss Ellen Terry, by Mr. Johnstone Forbes Robertson, himself a young actor of promise; Mr. Arthur Lewis's portrait of his wife, *née* Kate Terry; and Mr. David James, by the Hon. Lewis Wingfield. In the department of scene-painting we are reminded of the benefit which the art has been to many painters of our school by a few works of David Roberts and Stanfield—some drawings by W. L. Leitch seem to show that his fine sense of composition was developed through early association with the theatre, while the honour of the department is well maintained by some able copies from Canaletto and other works by J. O'Conner, and by two very daring scenic pictures by W. J. Calcott, which, by-the-way, would be seen to more advantage if further removed from the eye. There are many more interesting works by theatrical professionals, amateurs, dramatists, or others, such as those by J. Emery, Charles Mathews, John Parry, Watts Phillips, Hawes Craven, C. Marshall, T. E. Ryan (excellent small drawings), E. H. Sothern, J. Jefferson, F. Vokes, and caricatures by C. Lyell; but we must be content to recommend a visit to all playgoers and lovers of the drama.

Miss Eliza Turck's annual exhibition of water-colour drawings was on Tuesday opened at Mr. Roger's Gallery, 29, Maddox-street, Regent-street. The drawings are in the artist's usual spirited style, and some of the subjects are of historic interest, mostly relating to picturesque Normandy.

Mr. G. W. Reid, Keeper of the Print Rooms of the British Museum, is preparing an important work of reference for publication by subscription through Messrs. Trübner. This is an Alphabetical Index of the names of the artists, with the titles of their works under each, who have contributed to the exhibitions of the Royal Academy since its foundation (1767-1879), and of the earlier institutions, the Incorporated Society of Artists (1760-90) and the Free Society of Artists. To the student of the history of British art and of the biography of British artists, to the critic, collector, and dealer, the book will be most useful by saving an immense amount of laborious research.

Miss Marianne North has presented her sketches and studies of tropical vegetation, more than 1000 in number, to Kew Gardens, and will build a gallery to contain them. It is said that Miss North will shortly sail for Australia, with the intention of adding still further to her collection.

M. Antonin Mercié, the sculptor of the famous "Gloria Victis," has been charged by the French Government to execute a monument to M. Thiers, which is to be erected at St. Germain opposite the chapel of St. Louis. M. Thiers is represented sitting with a map of France on his knees, pointing with his finger to some strip of territory saved by his patriotic endeavours; and on the pedestal is the inscription, "A. Thiers, libérateur du territoire, hommage national." The model of the statue will be exhibited at the coming Salon.

M. Ernest Barrias has been commissioned by the French Government to erect a monument at St. Quintin, commemorative of the valiant resistance offered by that place to the German army.

The Musée du Garde-Meuble at Paris is now available for artists and students. It is opened to the public on Sundays and Thursdays, and by cards obtainable at the Ministry of Public Works on the remaining days of the week. All the fine tapestries will be exhibited in succession.

The death is announced of Dr. Alfred Woltmann, the author of the excellent work, "Holbein and his Times."

Yesterday week Lord Wrottesley opened the eleventh coffee-house, at Wolverhampton, belonging to the Staffordshire Cocoa and Coffee House Company.

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